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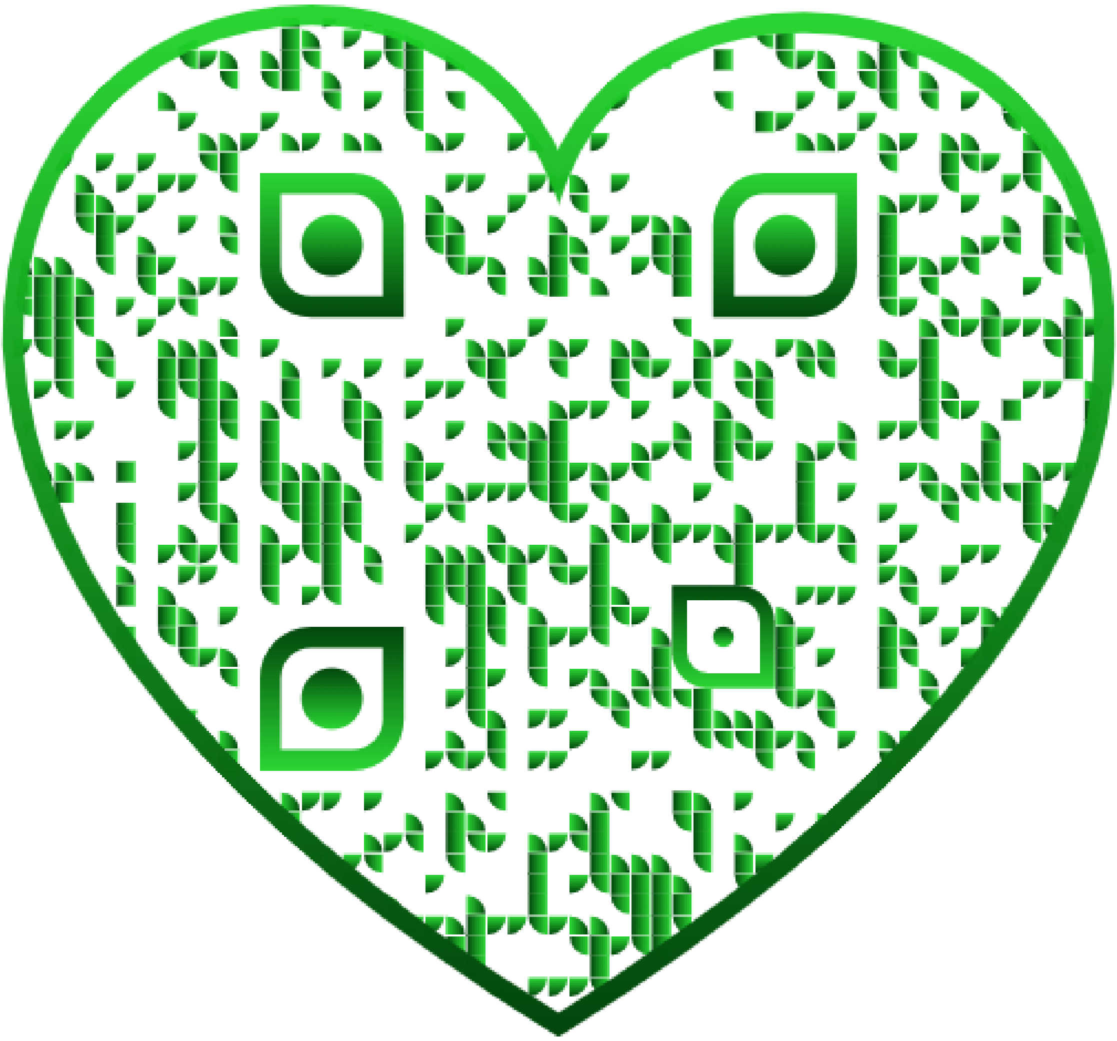

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> Seneca

John Corry/Shutterstock

VAL CHAPMAN GUEST EDITOR

In the depth of winter, as this issue went to press, and 2025 has only just got going, it may seem hard to switch thoughts to planning caravan holidays for the coming year – but this is the perfect time, inspired by soon-to-be lengthening daylight hours. And we have a helping hand for you: the new Premier Parks brochure is now available to view as a digital magazine. Go to **W bit.ly/premierparks25** to get your free page-turner. You can choose sites by type; for example, family sites and those that are dog-friendly. You'll enjoy this brochure for its excellent level of information – and there's more. **W outandaboutlive.co.uk** is now fully updated with the 2025 Premier Parks and offers links for you to book with the sites in our Premier Parks portfolio – so it's a really useful resource. Happy holiday planning!

MEET THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

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Penny Reynolds

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Carol Kubicki

David Chapman

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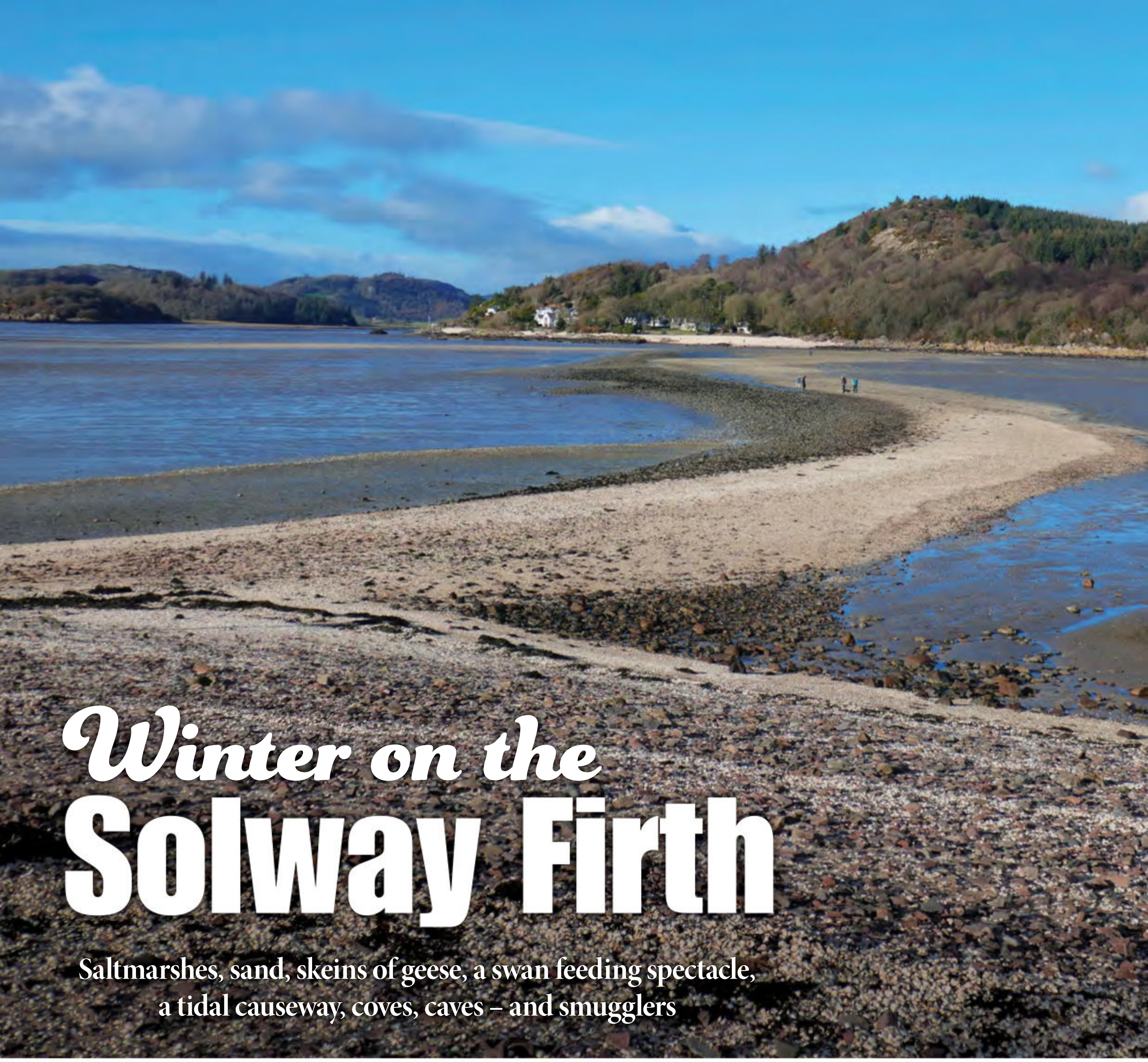


Winter on the Solway Firth

Saltmarshes, sand, skeins of geese, a swan feeding spectacle, a tidal causeway, coves, caves – and smugglers

Words & photography: Carol Kubicki

ABOVE The shell-strewn causeway from Rough Island

The Solway Firth, a tidal estuary edged by beaches, coves and salt marshes, separates England from Scotland. Awash with wriggling muddy channels of at least 12 rivers and numerous becks and burns, the Solway is a cocktail of freshwater and the salty Irish Sea.

Catching my first glimpse of the glistening Solway as we drove towards the Cumbrian coast, I pointed out landmarks to Anthony, including Criffel, the distinctive Scottish hill, hazy in February sunshine. Ann Lingard's book, *The Fresh and The Salt*, had inspired this trip. Her writing about the Solway encourages readers to look closely at small things as well as the big picture, and I had my first chance to try this at the seaside village of Allonby.

In the stiff breeze the sand whipped across my face. I pulled my gaze away from the immense sky, the long sandy beach and the white-crested waves and looked down. Soon I had a pocketful of shells, pebbles and a surprising number of old pottery fragments that had taken my fancy.

Away from the shore we admired Allonby's elegant houses with extravagant flourishes and painted facades; reminders that this was once important for herring fishing and has long been a resort.

The most striking building is the red-brick former reading rooms with a clock tower, now a private house. Holme Cultram Abbey was once a huge Cistercian enterprise in north Cumbria.

Today the nave remains, as Abbeytown's church, surrounded by a rambling graveyard where snowdrops flourished at the time of our visit between the headstones and ruins.

Opening the large outer door, a fine Norman archway leads visitors into the lofty church with a vase of flowers on every windowsill.

Northern Cumbria might feel remote today but the Cistercian monks farmed a wide area, produced salt and traded across the Solway Firth and beyond.

A stroll along Silloth's

promenade was the perfect place to appreciate the scale of the Solway Firth. We walked below wind-blown fir trees and watched showers rushing across the sea. Eventually rain reached us and we drove to our campsite.

Walking into Silloth after breakfast, we picked up the distinctive smell of molasses by the harbour, indicating an animal feed factory. Around 50 ships navigate the tricky entrance into Silloth each year and the molasses boat is a regular.

After coffee in a quirky café and a fascinating trip down memory lane in the Motorcycle Museum, we returned to the promenade, heading north for Grune Point.

Passing a larger-than-life metal sculpture of a man and a dog, and East Cote Lighthouse, we picked up a lane lined with flowering gorse.

The houses ran out and our path meandered along the shingle and soft sand dotted with driftwood and stones of every colour, from brilliant white through blues and greens to brick red. With a sharp wind and sunshine at our backs, it was exhilarating.

As well as fish and invertebrates, around 120,000 birds call the Solway Firth home. and we spotted plenty of waders searching the food-rich mud. We hunkered down near the old pill box at Grune Point for our picnic.

We heard them before we saw them; hundreds of barnacle geese rising up from the salt marsh in a cloud of noise. Grune Point felt so isolated that it was hard to imagine that, in 1299, Edward I's fleet gathered here preparing for the siege of Caerlaverock Castle across the Solway in Scotland.

I gazed across the channels and mud of Moricambe (not Morecambe) Bay to the tall masts of Anthorn Radio Station, a useful orientation point during our trip.

Ann Lingard writes that, "The 'recipe' for mud is as varied as the recipes for chocolate brownies", and I picked out different colours and textures.

Around Moricambe Bay are

»

TOP
There are many handsome buildings in Allonby

ABOVE
Enjoying the view over the Solway Firth at Silloth

INSET
The former Holme Cultram Abbey is now the church at Abbeytown

Our pitch had nothing except salt marsh separating us from the Solway and we spent hours watching the birds, tides and clouds

expansive salt marshes, green intertidal areas that are an important carbon store and grazing land. With twice-daily tides, this is a shifting landscape of pebbles, channels and plants.

We woke to a thick frost. From the pretty village of Bowness-on-Solway, the beginning and end of the Hadrian's Wall footpath, we pottered along the coastal road, stopping to let a tractor and slurry spreader pass. We were thanked with dollops of wet slurry that combined with the guano on the bonnet and we speculated if this would morph into a super fertiliser!

ABOVE
Peering over the top of the Waterloo Monument to the Solway

INSET
Swans fought and haggled for the food at Caerlaverock

At the RSPB's Campfield Marsh we followed waymarked trails to the hides. The pools were frozen, and teals and wigeons stood quietly on the ice while lapwings flew around in excited groups. In a frosty meadow we met the black, thick-coated Hebridean sheep that are kept as lawn mowers.

Port Carlisle is another fantastic spot for birdwatching, combined with industrial heritage.

The port couldn't compete with the larger harbour at Silloth and the Solway silt, but I was surprised how much of the port infrastructure remained, including a sea lock and large sandstone slabs that marked the quayside.

Ann Lingard explains that the word Solway comes from the Anglo-Saxon and Norse words for muddy ford. With an eye on the tide, travellers regularly waded across the Solway and, in July 1307, Edward I and his army planned to cross and once again fight the Scots. Instead, he died on the marsh and a monument now marks the spot. We parked in Burgh by Sands for the three-mile walk to see this tall monument.

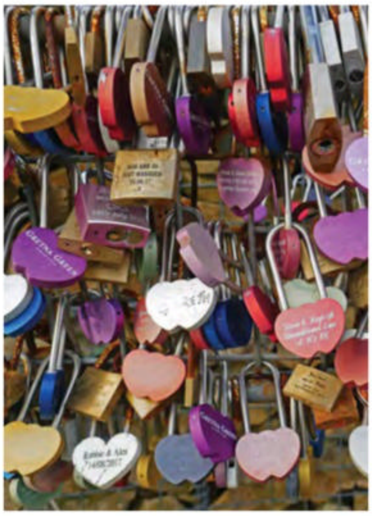
Edward was laid in state in the church at Burgh by Sands before being taken south for burial.

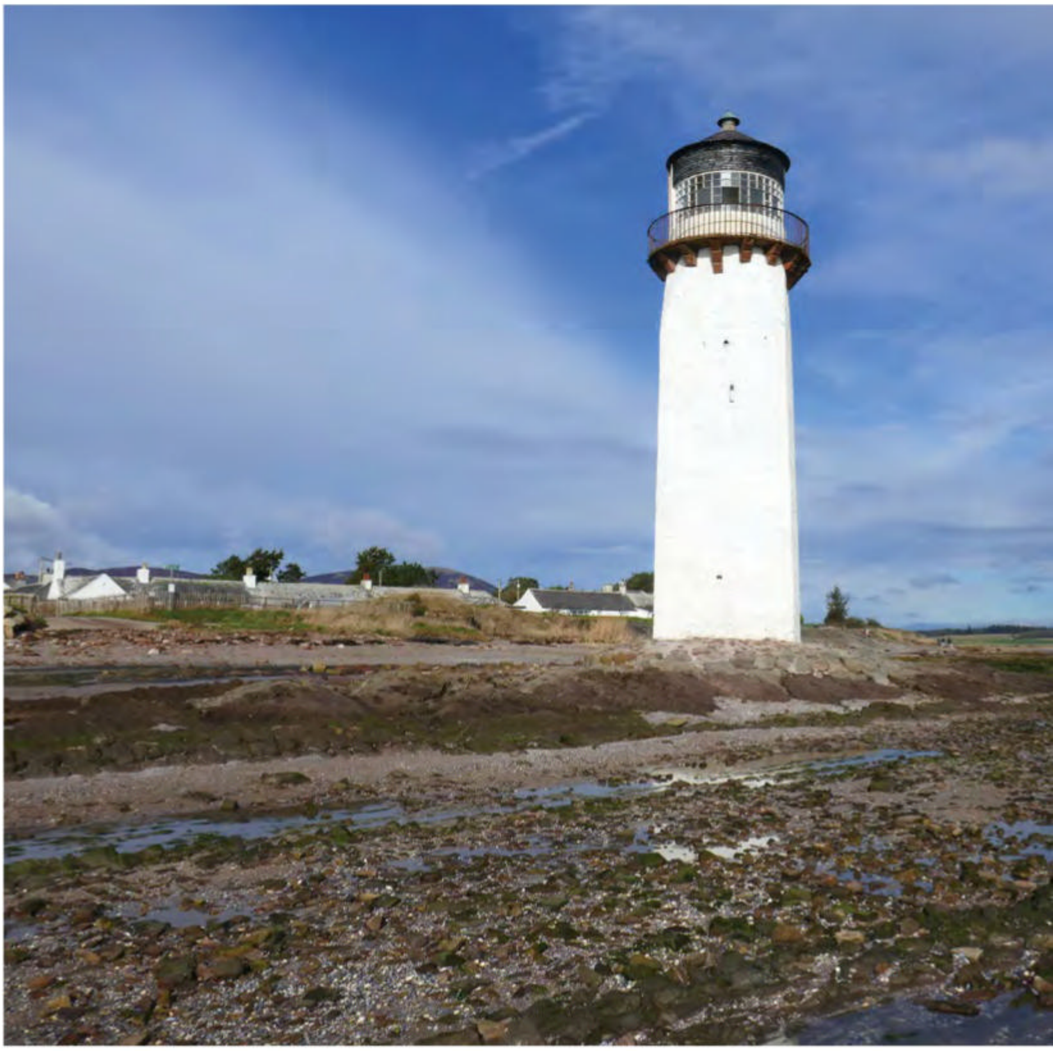
i

- To get to know every aspect of the Solway Firth in depth get hold of a copy of Ann Lingard's *The Fresh and the Salt* or check out her website for details of guided Solway walks
  W thefreshandthesalt.co.uk
- Excellent website for information about the history and people of the Cumbrian Solway
  W solwaycoastaonb.org.uk
- Focusing on land conservation in north Cumbria, this website has plenty of ideas on how to get involved with projects or for outdoor activities for every season
  W solwaywetlands.org.uk
- Covering the Scottish and English sides of the Solway, this website focuses on the airfields and other military sites
  W solwaymilitarytrail.co.uk
- Downloadable resources and information around the Solway Firth, including scavenger hunt and quiz sheets
  W solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk
- Walking leaflets and local information
  W dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk
- Silloth's motorcycle museum
  W sillothmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk

TOP TIPS

- To walk to Rough Island, access is possible two hours either side of low tide. I have two apps, Beaches and TidesX; both use your location to give you high and low tides. Rough Island cannot be accessed from 1 May to 31 July to protect the nesting oystercatchers and ringed plovers
- If you don't want to walk three miles to the Edward I Monument at Burgh by Sands, there is space to park at a junction about three-quarters of a mile along the signposted lane. The monument is a 10-minute muddy walk from there





ABOVE
The lighthouse at Southerness Point

ABOVE LEFT
A display of keys at the Metal Bridge Inn, near Gretna Green

BELOW
The statue to Edward I at Burgh by Sands

The Metal Bridge Inn by the M6, close to the River Esk, offers an opportunity to observe birds as well as eat a pub meal. Skeins of pink-footed geese flew overhead, their honking so loud they drowned the traffic's noise and we watched them circle before settling on the salt marsh.

From here we visited The Devil's Porridge Museum, near Gretna. Here we learnt the story of the nine-mile-long site that produced cordite during World War One, employing 30,000 people, mostly women. The volunteer guide told us there had been a filling factory in Morecambe, where the cordite was packed into shells.

Two days of damp and blustery weather found us pottering along the northern coast of the Solway Firth. We arrived at Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre just in time for swan feeding, and dashed to the top of the hide to watch.

The whooper and mute swans bobbed on the pond serenely waiting for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust member of staff to emerge with a wheelbarrow full of grain. As soon as she appeared, it was entertaining mayhem, as swans and ducks pushed and shoved to reach the food.

At Queensberry Bay Holiday Park, at Powfoot, Annan, our pitch had nothing except salt marsh separating us from the Solway, and we spent hours watching the birds, tides and clouds, a fishing boat and the sun setting. England is still close and, at low tide, I could pick out colours from ochre to granite in the sand.

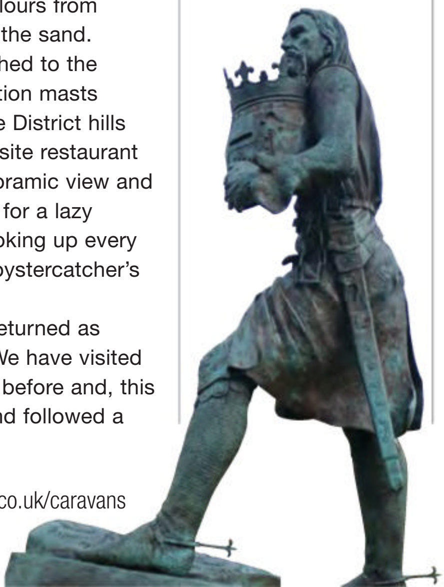
The water stretched to the Anthorn Radio Station masts with the misty Lake District hills beyond. The campsite restaurant had the same panoramic view and we sauntered over for a lazy morning coffee, looking up every time we heard an oystercatcher's sharp whistle.

Better weather returned as we headed west. We have visited Sweetheart Abbey before and, this time, we parked and followed a short, steep walk up to the Waterloo Monument.

We were following information on a leaflet which said the memorial was built in 1810 to commemorate the victory at Waterloo. Given that the battle was in 1815 this seemed an optimistic project!

From the pretty millpond and snowdrop display we took a lane lined with stone walls made from local granite. The views from the hill over Sweetheart Abbey and the Solway are spectacular and even better if you scramble into the tower and climb the unlit spiral staircase to the top.

While the Solway shore in Cumbria has vast beaches, the Scottish coast is characterised by crinkly bays and crags. Ann Lingard describes what a busy port Dumfries and the River Nith had been in the nineteenth century, importing coal, tobacco and alcohol. As we wound along the coast, I read out loud how smugglers profitably exploited this »



ABOVE CLOCKWISE By the harbour at Kirkcudbright; The lone hawthorn on the cockleshell beach at Kippford; Stanwix Park

trade, using coves and caves along this part of the Solway.

After stopping for a spot of beachcombing and rock pool probing under the lighthouse at Southerness, we drove to the pretty village of Kippford. As low tide approached we followed the coast, passing a windswept hawthorn on the cockleshell beach that was the Woodland Trust's tree of the year in 2021.

The crunch of shells underfoot accompanied me all the way along the tidal causeway to Rough Island. Although we had been to Kippford before, this was the first time the tide had been low enough to cross the causeway.

A family was just leaving and recommended the walk up to the high point and cairn. From the 360-degree viewpoint I looked across the now much wider Solway and could still make out the blue line of the Cumbrian hills on the horizon. We arrived at our pitch on the hillside above Kirkcudbright in time to see the golden sunset transform the town.

In handsome Kirkcudbright we walked by the harbour fishing boats, around the castle and along streets of colourful houses. We visited two of the three museums, starting with Kirkcudbright Galleries and its temporary exhibition of the Viking-age hoard. This rich collection of treasures found nearby includes intricately decorated brooches and bracelets. In the Stewartry Museum, I leaned over a display case of local shells, picking out ones we had found on Solway beaches.

After lunch in a café we walked along the shore of Kirkcudbright Bay that flows into the Solway; clouds had rolled in, giving the light a touch of drama. We returned along a wooded lane that teemed with clumps of naturalised snowdrops nestled beside bright green moss-covered walls.

On the way home I tweeted photographs of some of my beachcombing finds from our trip to Ann Lingard and thanked her for the inspiration to explore the Solway Firth with new eyes.

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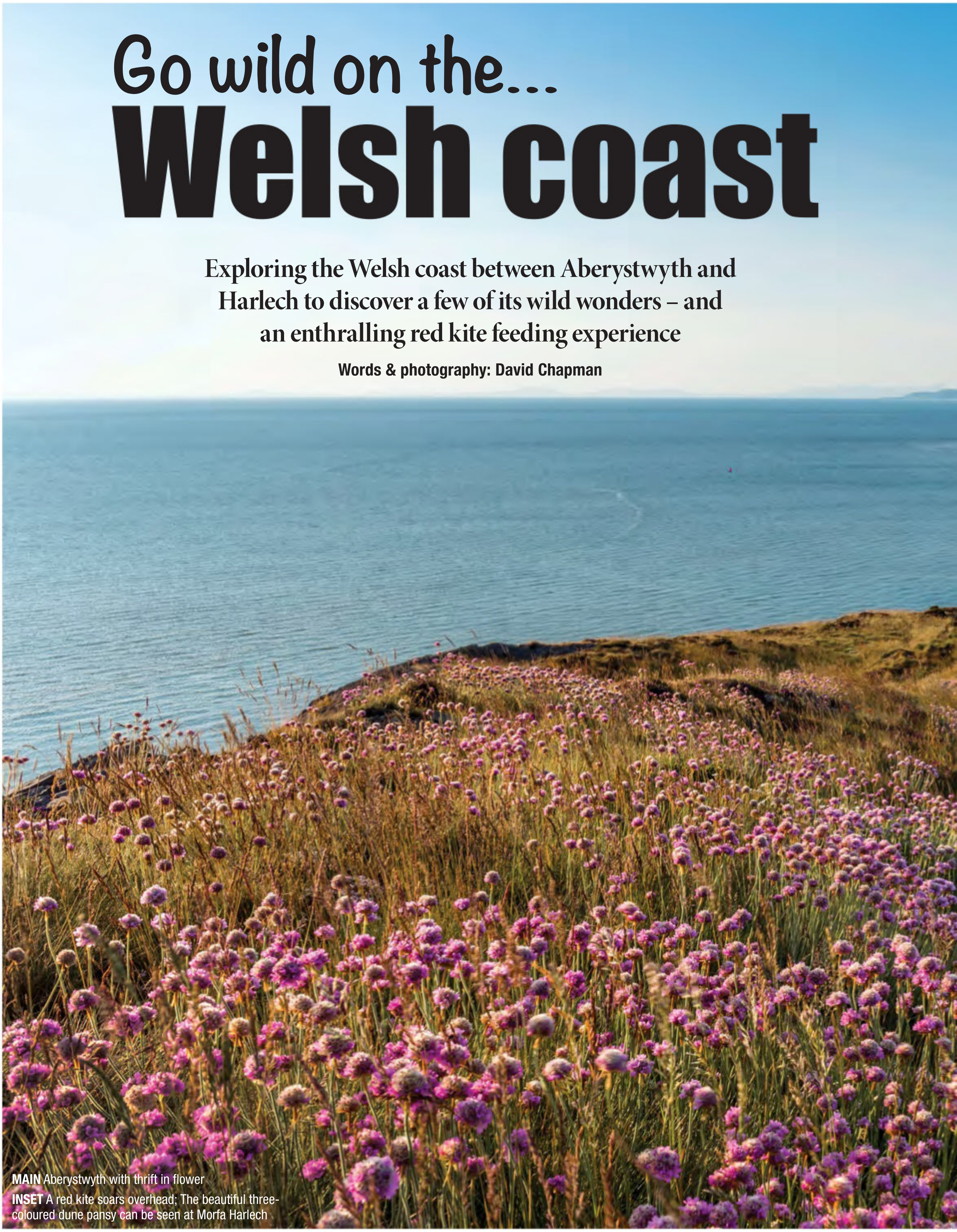
Go wild on the...

Welsh coast

Exploring the Welsh coast between Aberystwyth and Harlech to discover a few of its wild wonders – and an enthralling red kite feeding experience

Words & photography: David Chapman



MAIN Aberystwyth with thrift in flower

INSET A red kite soars overhead; The beautiful three-coloured dune pansy can be seen at Morfa Harlech

This is a wonderful corner of Wales, so I hope that the following pages may give those of you planning to head to Wales for a walking, sightseeing, or beach holiday, a few ideas for diversifying into nature.

There's a lot to see, so I picked four locations to recommend, for when you are planning your caravan tours for 2025.

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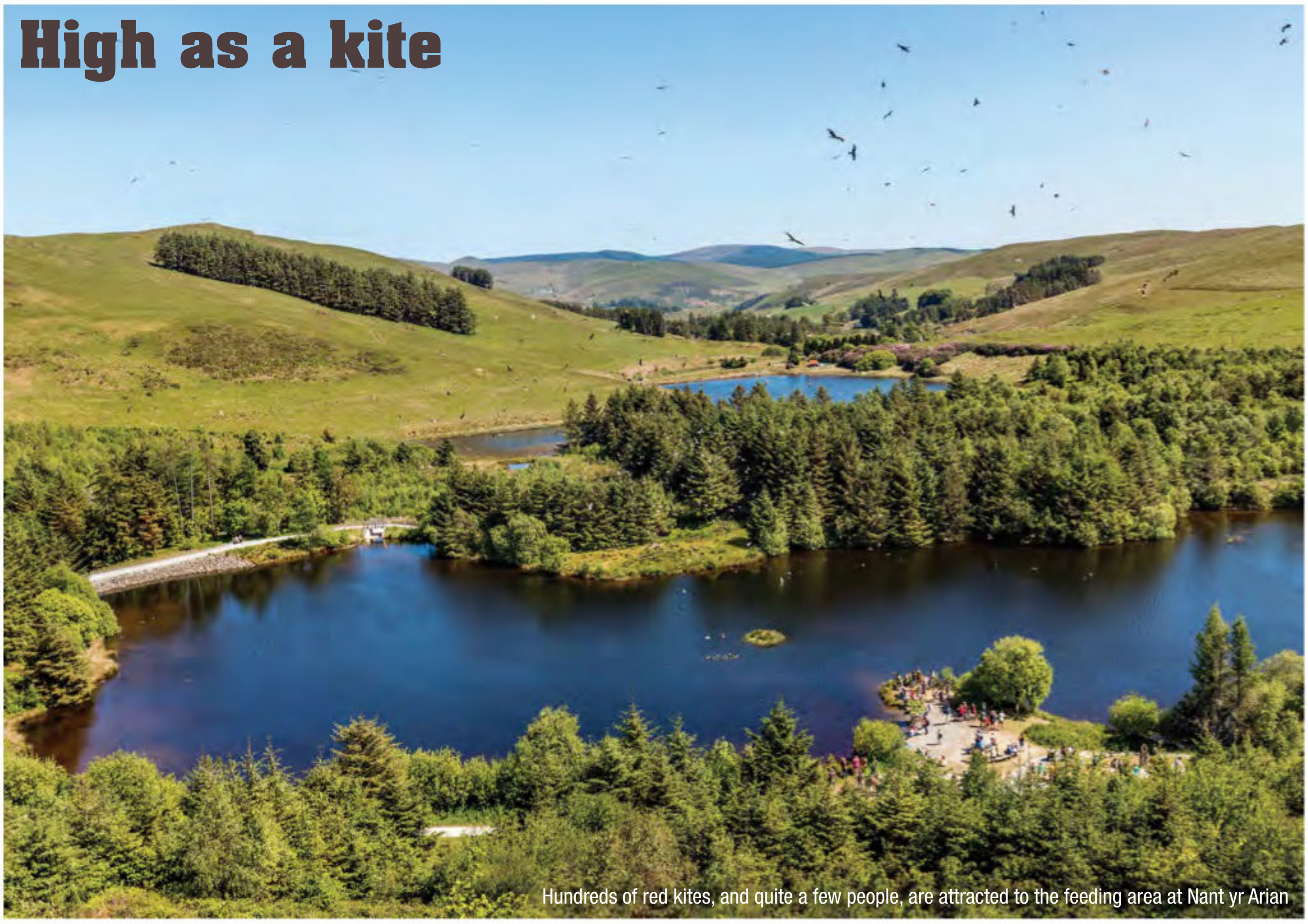
High as a kite



Hundreds of red kites, and quite a few people, are attracted to the feeding area at Nant yr Arian

Nant yr Arian: a red kite feeding station; I think we've been to all the red kite feeding stations in Britain, but did we save the best until last?

I didn't visit with high expectations because summer is not the best season to see large numbers of kites. We arrived mid-morning on a sunny day in June; I wanted to get to know the place before the kite feeding at 3pm (2pm in the winter).

From the visitor centre, with its bird feeder inundated by siskins, goldfinches, chaffinches and house sparrows, we wandered around the short lakeside trail, where we saw little grebes and lots of damselflies. There is a kite hide, very close to the feeding location, and a kite viewing area.

I quickly decided not to go for the hide. Angled against the afternoon light and with a limited field of view, this was not for me. The viewing area looked more promising, with a lovely aspect across the lake to the kites.

Siskins gather at the feeder near the visitor centre at Nant yr Arian

With time on our hands, we decided to follow the red walking trail. I was impressed by the views from this walk and saw a good variety of wildlife, including redstarts, cuckoos, garden warblers and a few red kites getting ready for their free handout later in the day. We paused for lunch and, though I had intended to follow another trail before the big red kite event, when we finished lunch at about 1.30pm the kites were already starting to build in large numbers, so we headed up the main track from the car park.

From here we had a terrific vista of the whole area, looking down on the lake, viewing area and feeding area. The kites were at eye-level, sometimes below us, so here we stayed until gone 3.30pm. The actual moment of feeding was frenetic, with kites coming from every angle and swarming around the feeding area like honeybees at a hive.

Photographically, I was less happy. The high sun of summer is not ideal for this type of photography and the wind was from the northeast, resulting in the kites tending to drift away from the sun which lit up their posteriors as they did so. A southwest wind would be best – and winter, when the sun is lower in the sky, would be better than summer.

Having finished making excuses for my very average photographs I would still rate this as the best red kite feeding experience that I have ever had, not just for numbers but for the whole arena and experience.

TOP TIP

- If eating out in Aberystwyth, try 'Medina', which does good-quality, healthy food for all dietary requirements

Out of the Furnace

Furnace is a village on the south side of the Dyfi Estuary, named after a furnace which still stands in the village.

Furnace Farm is a generously proportioned, well-organised Caravan and Motorhome Club Certified Location that is within easy reach of two nature reserves: Ynys-hir (RSPB) and Dyfi Wildlife Centre (Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust).

Ynys-hir is a short enough walk from the site (15 minutes), so convenient for me to return five times during our four-night stay. You might guess from the frequency of my visits that I enjoyed myself! My first visit was towards the end of a hot day. An electric reeling sound carried across the rushy pasture, like a grasshopper with no pause button. This was a grasshopper warbler. Able to throw its voice in any direction, it is a difficult bird to pin down with binoculars.

Easier to spot was a brown hare bumbling along the path in front of me and, beside a shallow pool, a pair of Canada geese led their goslings on a trip to nowhere in particular. A lapwing flew overhead and, behind me in the deciduous woodland, there was the squeaky chattering of a pied flycatcher.

The species I have just mentioned allude to the variety of habitats at Ynys-hir, all of which are surrounded by the estuary of the Dyfi to one side and fells skirted in deciduous trees, topped with moorland, all around.

Osprey observation tower at Dyfi Wildlife Centre

Pied flycatchers nest at Ynys-hir, this is a male

It is a place of great beauty and tranquillity. It is also a place rich in wildlife; not just birds, but insects such as the small red damselfly, hairy dragonfly and black-tailed skimmers.

From Furnace, it's a short drive to the Dyfi Wildlife Centre. This comprises a plush visitor centre, a bog (Cors Dyfi) with 600m of boardwalk, and an observation tower for watching an osprey nest (many people refer to this place as the 'Dyfi Osprey Project', but it is more than that).

When we arrived, the 4K live cams showed two osprey chicks on the nest; these were two weeks old. Mum had gone AWOL, probably seeing off a stray two-year-old male osprey from the River Tweed in Scotland who had been scouting around.

Evidently, ospreys don't usually start breeding until at least three years old, and many don't even bother to return from Africa until that point, so this rogue male was just messing around, probably on his way up to Scotland to prospect for a future nest site.

The information gleaned from wing tags and leg rings makes osprey-watching a fascinating pastime when in the company of an expert.

There's plenty more to see at this attractive reserve; we spotted Cetti's warblers, reed buntings, many dragonflies and a common lizard. There are also beavers in an enclosure.

One great asset of this place is the accessibility for all; even the observation tower, which is half a mile from nowhere, has a lift. Whatever your fitness, this is half a day well spent.

TOP TIP

● Morning is best (particularly on sunny days) for Dyfi Wildlife Centre, because of the angle of light on the osprey's nest. Ynys-hir is open from 10am to 4pm on weekdays, 9am to 5pm at weekends, but access to the trails and hides can be had at any time (there is a charge for non-members of the RSPB)

A view from Ynys-hir Nature Reserve

»

Dune to perfection

The site we chose at Harlech couldn't have been a greater contrast to Furnace Farm. But, like Furnace, it is close to a great nature reserve – in this case, the sand dunes of Morfa Harlech. The one thing I knew about Harlech was that it had a castle. I also knew the story that in the medieval period, when the castle was in its heyday, there was direct access from the castle to the sea.

The castle still has a 'water gate', a kind of quay through which food was shipped from Ireland when the castle was under siege, but the water gate now stands nearly a mile from the sea, cut off by sand dunes.

At Harlech there is a tidal current, known as longshore drift, which carries sand particles from the south. In the 1300s, this sand began to form a spit, which now reaches out across the mouth of the Dwyryd Estuary. Much of this is now the Morfa Harlech National Nature Reserve, regarded as one of the most important actively growing sand dune systems in Britain, with a rich flora and fauna.

Having done the legwork, I now feel a little disingenuous about distances, so let me come clean. It is true that the campsite is close to the dunes, but the best part of the dunes is the furthest away, at the end of the spit.

The positive aspect of the longer distance is that, if you make the effort to walk three miles along the beach, you will have the place to yourself! Is it worth it? You bet it is.

The lowest-lying, most recently formed (embryonic, to use the correct terminology) dunes have a wonderful feel to them. The soundscape is of skylarks and the ground flora dominated by bird's-foot trefoil, but start to look a bit closer and a whole host of interest unfolds.

The slacks (dips in the dunes that can sometimes reach down to the water table and hold water) are a good place to look for flowers. When we visited, we found northern, southern and early marsh-orchids and, just coming through, the first of the marsh helleborines.

The tiny, light pink flowers of bog pimpernel carpeted the edge of the slacks, whilst on the drier ground we saw hundreds of pyramidal orchids and some delightful little three-coloured dune pansies.

It was hot when we visited, so we saw plenty of insect life, including six-spot burnet moths and dark green fritillaries; there were plenty of obscure little solitary wasps which could have entertained me all day. We failed, and I did try, to spot sand lizards, but in the heat of summer these reptiles bask early in the morning and don't take long to warm up.

TOP TIP

● I found one good spot for marsh orchids, close to Beach Road, in a big hollow about 100 yards south of the interpretation board where you first enter the dunes

Dunes separate Harlech Castle from the sea

Six-spot burnet moths on rosebay willowherb at Morfa Harlech

WHERE TO STAY

PRICES COUPLE, ELECTRIC HOOK-UP, PER NIGHT

PENYGRAIG FARM CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB CERTIFIED
LOCATION Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 4QA **T** 01970 612955
W camc.com **OPEN** 1 May – 1 October
PRICE £15 (shower and toilet but no EHU)

FURNACE FARM CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB CERTIFIED
LOCATION Furnace, Machynlleth, Ceredigion SY20 8ND
T 01654 781311 **W** camc.com
OPEN 1 April – 31 October **PRICE** £20

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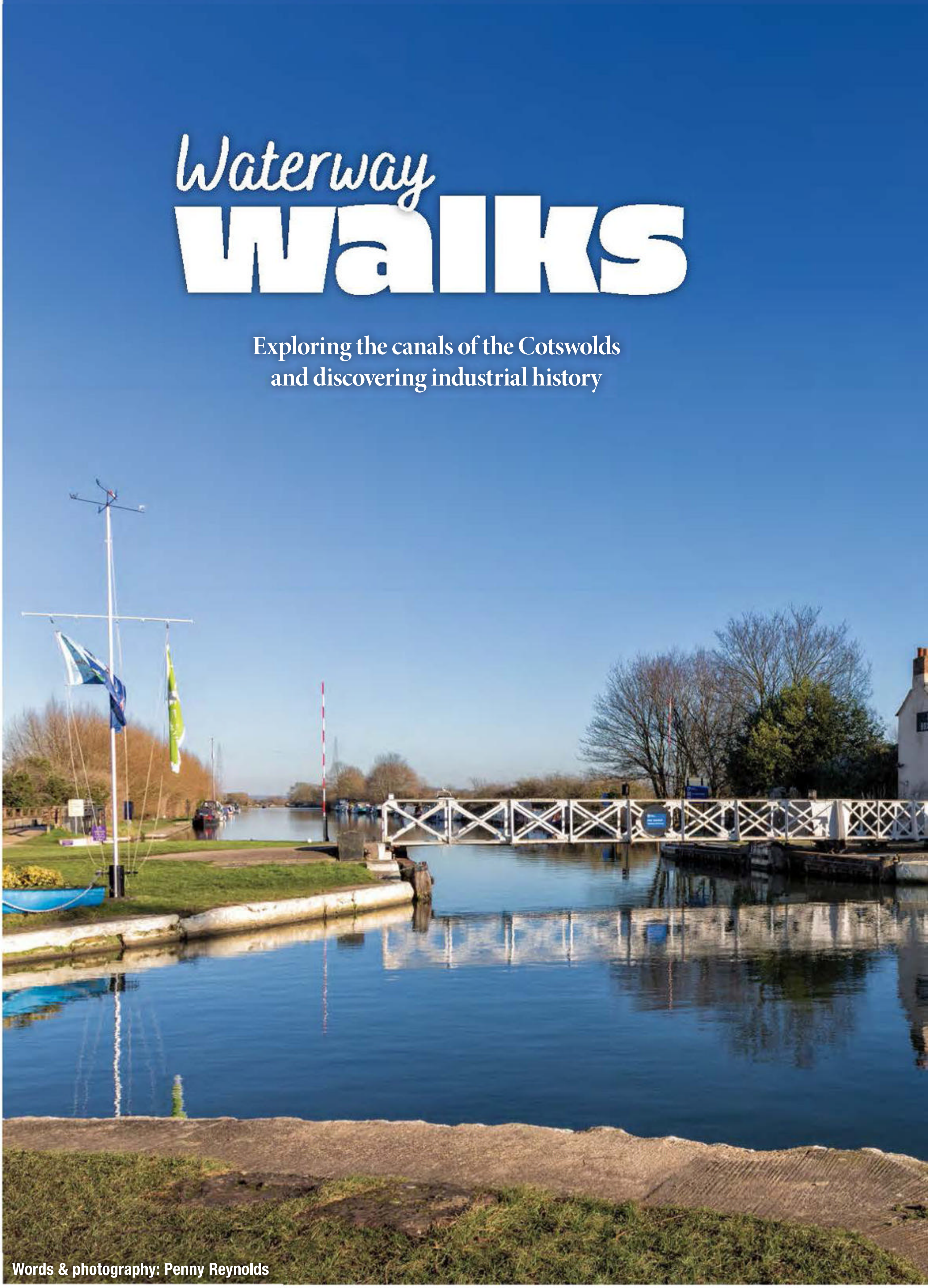
Waterway walks

Exploring the canals of the Cotswolds and discovering industrial history



Words & photography: Penny Reynolds

JUNCTION
BRIDGE HOUSE
CITY BOAT Co
BRISTOL
R. W. DAVIS & SON

John Corry/Shutterstock

MAIN
Saul Junction where the Stroudwater Canal meets the Gloucester and Sharpness ship canal

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT
Unrestored Stroudwater Canal just past the restored marina of Saul Junction; Saul Junction boatyard and marina

Many people have that special place that they like to visit again and again; a bolthole, somewhere not too far from home but far enough for it to be a break from the everyday.

When we had a motorhome we spent too much time travelling from one place to another to discover such a place.

Now our life has altered, and we have a caravan, such a place has been discovered.

Living in Somerset, the Cotswolds is a perfect place for us to revisit time and again and, having found a site next to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, we can indulge in another passion of ours: walking canals and taking in the industrial architecture.

Furthermore, with the Stroudwater Canal and Thames and Severn Canal undergoing active restoration under the umbrella of the Cotswold Canals, there is much to explore every time we visit. Our first trip to Slimbridge was only our second outing in the caravan and, having previously been motorhomers for 10 years, we spent the first day just enjoying the caravan.

The following day we drove a few miles to Saul Junction where the Stroudwater Canal crosses the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. This picturesque spot on the canal has an active boatyard.

A restored section of the Cotswold Canal is home to many boat moorings. You can walk in all four directions: north to Gloucester, south towards Sharpness, east towards Stroud and west to the River Severn.

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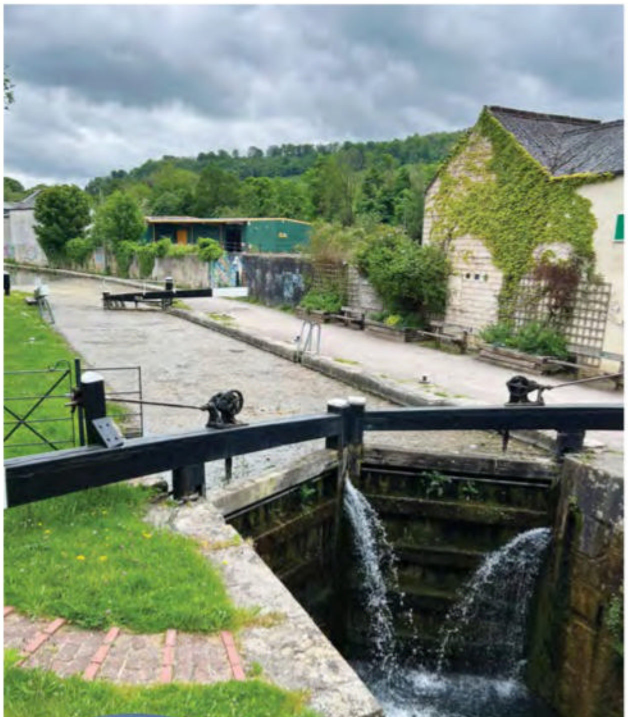
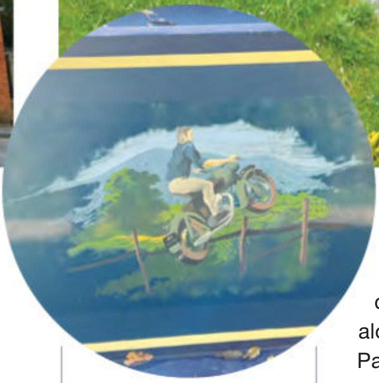




We walked along the towpath, looking at the beautifully painted narrowboats, towards a section of canal that is currently unrestored and where the next active phase of restoration is due to begin soon.

Keeping to the canal theme, we drove to Stonehouse the following day, parking at Bonds Mill Gatehouse, constructed as a defensive pillbox and now used by the Cotswold Canal Trust as a visitor centre.

We walked eastwards towards Stroud along the towpath, taking in the natural beauty and wildlife of an urban canal.

This section is also undergoing restoration and a new bridge taking the railway over the canal was opened in 2023.

This short break solidified our decision to buy a new caravan, having begun our caravanning 'career' with a secondhand one – and we returned to the same site some time later with a brand-new one.

This time we drove into Stroud, parking at the railway station next to the canal at Wallbridge, the starting point of the Thames and Severn Canal which heads eastwards to its junction with the River Thames.

There is a Cotswold Canal Trust visitor centre here and, during the summer months, boat trips can be taken on the newly restored section. We walked eastwards, where the railway, canal and River Frome run alongside each other.

Part of this section of canal was lost when the Stroud bypass was built and it has recently been rerouted through a different arch of the Capel's Mill viaduct.

The towpath hasn't been restored to run alongside this section of the canal and is diverted over the road; you can take a detour along the River Frome or continue across the road and back onto the canal by the viaduct. This impressive viaduct is the site of a former mill on the

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT
Hill Paul Building;
Wallbridge Upper Lock

INSET
Barge art

BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT
River Severn Timber
Moorings; The old arm of
the Sharpness Canal with
the Harbour Master House
in the distance

● Cotswold Canal Trust
W **cotswoldcanals.org**

● Tudor Arms pub is at the entrance to the campsite

River Frome known as Capel's Mill.

Many of the major structures of this section of the canal have been restored, including numerous locks and circular spill weirs unique to this canal.

The next morning we awoke to a more overcast day and decided to drive to Sharpness where there is a picnic area next to the River Severn. This is where the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal joins the River Severn and there is still an active shipyard and docks here. The canal runs through the docks and into the river on a newer arm of the canal; we were unable to walk along this section because it is a working dock. We gazed out across the river with the two Severn bridges visible in the distance and the former timber struts reaching out into the river.

We drove to a small village called Purton and picked up the canal there. We walked along the towpath towards Sharpness with the canal to the left of us and the River Severn to the right. We could see across the river to Wales.

It was here that you could see many of the ships that were deliberately beached to reinforce this section of the riverbank known as Purton Hulks.

Many of the ships abandoned here have name plaques telling you their name and history and there is a small detour off the towpath along the riverbank beside the barges and ships now laid to rest here.

Further along the canal is the former abutment of the Severn Railway Bridge, opened in 1870s to carry coal from the Forest of Dean to the docks at Sharpness. In 1960 two barges hit one of the piers on the bridge; it collapsed into the river. Being uneconomical to repair, it was then demolished.

We were able to walk to the end of the old arm of the Sharpness Canal where it joins the River Severn, although the locks and gates are no longer in use.

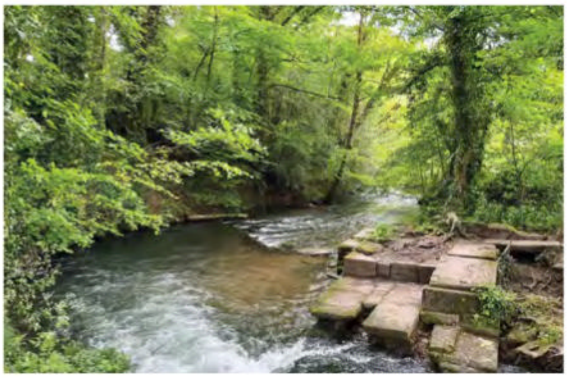
It is now home to a big marina and permanently moored boats. The former harbourmaster's cottage is now home to the Severn Area Rescue Association that maintains a rescue service for those in trouble on the river.

We had a lovely few days away, learning a lot about our waterway history. We have booked to return, when grandchild duties permit, and hope to explore more of the Cotswolds, including the canals and their restoration progress.

Mareks Perkons/Shutterstock

ABOVE
Purton Ships' Graveyard

BELOW CLOCKWISE
Capel's Mill viaduct; Barges on the Stroudwater arm at Saul Junction; River Frome at Capel's Mill



WHERE TO STAY

PRICES COUPLE, ELECTRIC HOOK-UP, PER NIGHT

TUDOR CARAVAN PARK
Shepherd's Patch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BP
T 01453 890483 **W** tudorcaravanpark.com
OPEN All Year **PRICE** £33

pitchside VIEWS

Fiona Scott

Aspiring to explore Salisbury – and its environs

Salisbury is Wiltshire's only city, although it's not the biggest urban area in Wiltshire, nor the most economically active – both of those titles belong to Swindon, in the north of the county.

The iconic landmark of Salisbury is, of course, its cathedral that has the tallest church spire in England, at 123 metres.

This was our second time staying near to Salisbury – however, this is the first time we've stayed at the Salisbury Camping and Caravanning Club site. This is just over two miles by road from the centre of Salisbury and the cathedral and has views over the Iron Age hill fort of Old Sarum.

There are no narrow lanes to worry about on the approach to the site. However, when you come close to the site, as you turn from a main road, it appears you are turning into an industrial estate. Head straight on, and you'll see the sign for the site in front of you. You then drive along a road into a green space with the site clearly at the end of the road.

At first glance this site appears small, with hardstanding pitches around the edge. However, there's a large grassy area in the centre and an extra, more basic field, on a slightly lower area. This part of the site is very uneven so please be aware of that.

We discovered that on a Friday night, a local company, called Hot Turtle, offers fabulous wood-fired pizzas, served between 5pm and 7pm. What the signs don't tell you is that you have go early to order your pizza and, if you leave it until 7pm or even 6pm, you will be too late. We luckily just got our order in, and the pizzas were delicious.

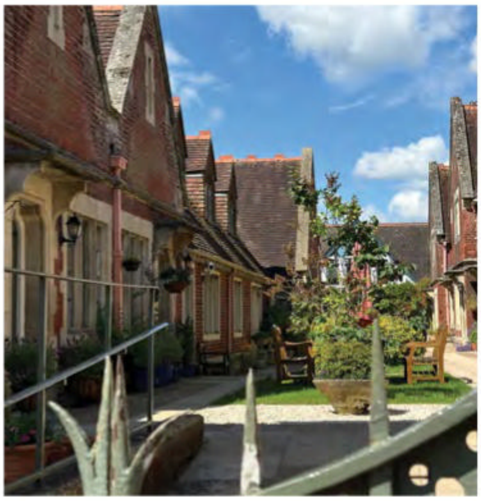
You can walk into the city centre from this site. It takes about 30 minutes along a riverside path. The city has great places to eat; we opted for a very small café within a little antiques emporium.

Salisbury Cathedral is beautiful with lovely grounds. There is a £10 cost (in advance; £12 on the day) – and the ticket is valid for a year.

Old Sarum is a hill fort. It is the original location of Salisbury. It's a steep hill with a hill fort on a plateau. It's owned by English Heritage; tickets are free to members. Non-members can save by buying tickets online.

The World Heritage Site of Stonehenge is also owned by English Heritage. Built around 2,500 BC, it is rated as among the world's most famous prehistoric monuments. Entrance is £28.

Avebury is less than an hour away. Run by the National Trust, it's free to park for members; otherwise, that's the only cost, as the stone circles are open to all.



TOP LEFT Old Sarum

TOP RIGHT Salisbury Market

ABOVE Hot Turtle

BELOW A riverside walk from the site; Almshouses in Salisbury

W english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum

W english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge

W nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/avebury

W campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk

INFO ● Catch up on Fiona and Steve's caravan adventures by heading to their YouTube channel: *Beyond that Blue Door* bit.ly/3Awt1ZZ

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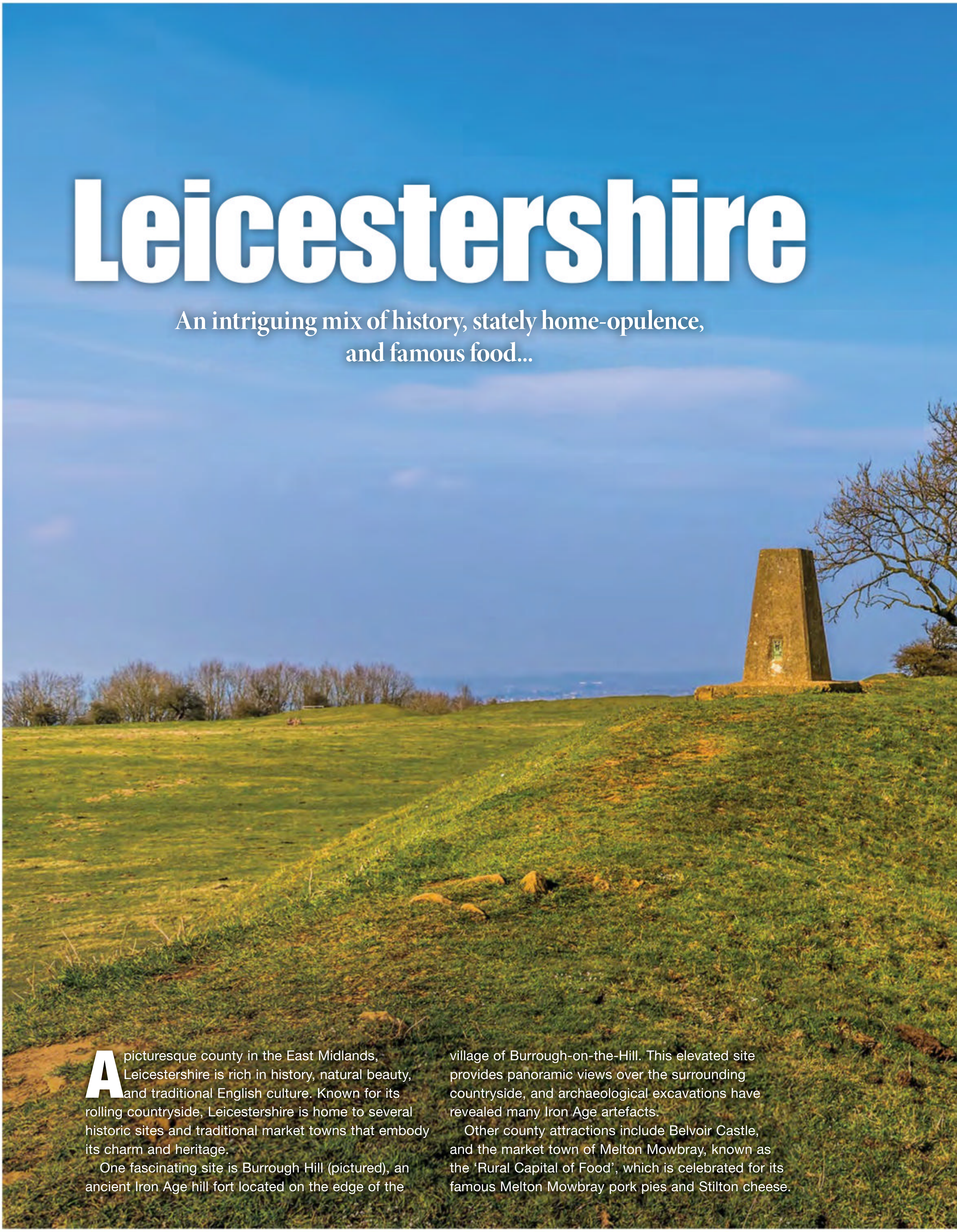
Nicola Pulham/Shutterstock



Leicestershire

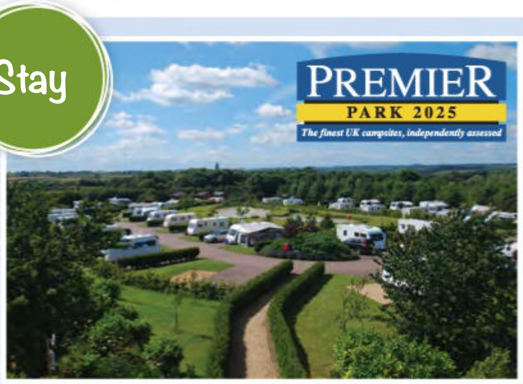
An intriguing mix of history, stately home-opulence, and famous food...

A picturesque county in the East Midlands, Leicestershire is rich in history, natural beauty, and traditional English culture. Known for its rolling countryside, Leicestershire is home to several historic sites and traditional market towns that embody its charm and heritage.

One fascinating site is Burrough Hill (pictured), an ancient Iron Age hill fort located on the edge of the village of Burrough-on-the-Hill. This elevated site provides panoramic views over the surrounding countryside, and archaeological excavations have revealed many Iron Age artefacts.

Other county attractions include Belvoir Castle, and the market town of Melton Mowbray, known as the 'Rural Capital of Food', which is celebrated for its famous Melton Mowbray pork pies and Stilton cheese.

Stay



▲ **Eye Kettleby Lakes Holiday Park**
An adults-only, five-star touring park set in 150 acres of quiet Leicestershire countryside. it has 130 all-weather pitches; some fully serviced. Facilities are provided in deluxe amenity blocks. The site has a bar and tea room with a dedicated pet-friendly lounge, plus a shop, and eight coarse fishing lakes. It is located close to the historic market town of Melton Mowbray.
W **eyekettlebylakes.com**

Explore

▲ **Belvoir Castle**
A stunning historic estate that has been the seat of the Dukes of Rutland for over 1,000 years. Known for its magnificent architecture, it resembles a fairy-tale fortress atop a hill, surrounded by landscaped gardens. Inside, it features lavish interiors, impressive art collections, and opulent décor. Seasonal events take place here.
W **belvoircastle.com**

Visit

YE OLDE PORK PIE SHOPPE

chrisdorney/stock.adobe.com

▲ **Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe**
In Melton Mowbray, the spiritual home of the pork pie, this company has been baking award-winning pies here for over 170 years. Mary Dickinson is credited with creating the Melton Mowbray pork pie and her traditional techniques are still used today.
W **porkpie.co.uk**

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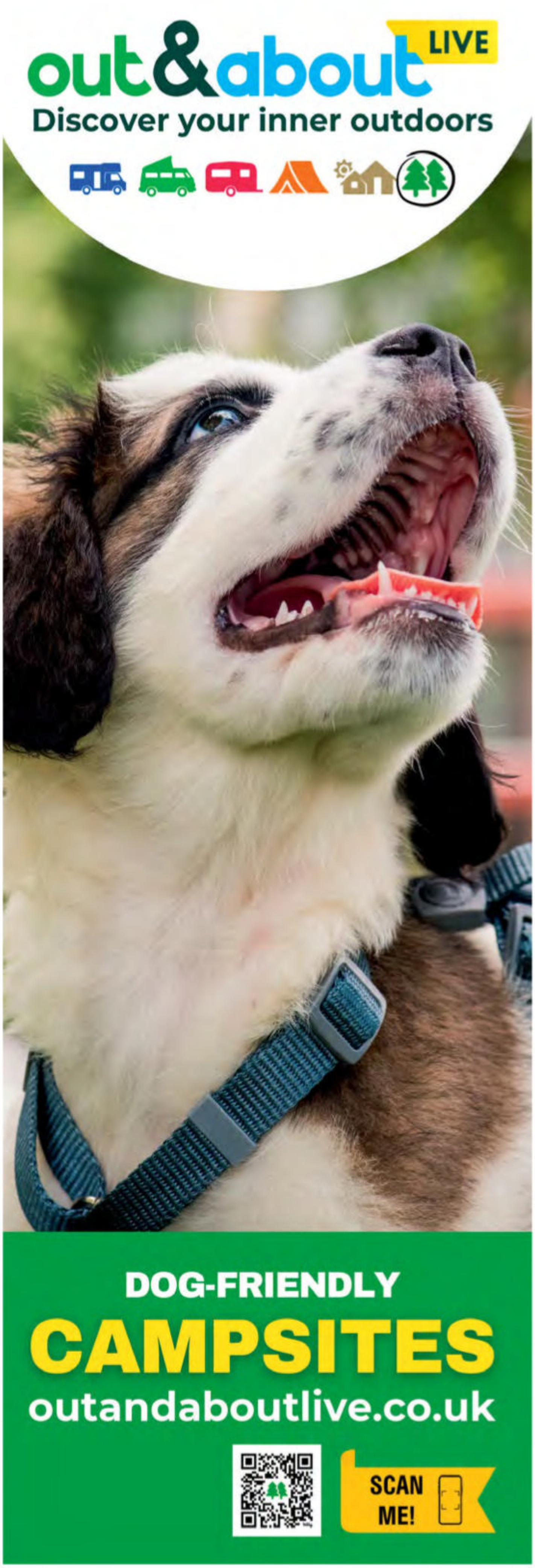
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Words: Claire Tupholme

These aren't just any campsites, these are highly rated, award-winning campsites and perfect for your first venture out in the caravan in 2025

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POLMANTER TOURING PARK

Halsetown, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3LX T 01736 795640 W polmanter.com OPEN 1 April – 31 October

In a stunning location above the pretty coastal town of St Ives, Polmanter is no stranger to awards. The site has held gold awards from the Cornwall Tourism Awards from 2020 right up to 2025, a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award for 2024 and five platinum stars from the AA. It also won awards in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards in the years 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2022/23.

This high-quality site is just two miles from St Ives with a regular shuttle bus service running into the town (where parking can be a challenge). You can also enjoy country walks locally, and Polmanter has an array of facilities including an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, a bar and restaurant, a putting green, a dog exercise field and a dog shower. There's even a spa and treatment rooms for some pampering after a busy day exploring!

You can choose from a variety of pitches including basic grass with electric hook-up to multi-serviced hardstanding with electric hook-up, water and drainage.

Pixabay

WITCHES CRAIG CARAVAN & CAMPING PARK

Blairlogie, Stirling FK9 5PX T 01786 474947
W witchescraig.co.uk OPEN 1 April – 31 October

A family-run campsite for over 45 years, Witches Craig was recognised in 2024 with the accolade of AA Campsite of the Year Scotland 2024/25. The site is surrounded by stunning scenery, with direct access to the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills. The site is close to the city of Stirling; a bus stop is less than half a mile away if you want to avoid city parking. There is easy access to Stirling Castle and the National Wallace Monument, which dominates the landscape, is only three miles away.

Among the standout features for the AA awards inspectors was the site's central location, the superb attention to detail throughout the site, and the metal statues and themed wood carvings that are dotted around the site.

There are hardstanding and grass pitches with electric hook-up. Facilities include showers, a laundry room, dishwashing areas and local tourist information.

»

MANOR WOOD

Coddington, Chester, Cheshire
CH3 9EN T 01829 782990
W manor-wood.com OPEN All year

Located among Cheshire farmland, close to the England/Wales border, and only 11 miles from spectacular Chester, Manor Wood is a countryside retreat. In terms of awards, the site holds the title of Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year in the Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards 2024, and AA Campsite of the Year 2023/24 North West England. Manor Wood is also home to plenty of wildlife and has been recognised by the David Bellamy Conservation Awards.

The site has hardstanding pitches (some surrounding one of the site's fishing lakes), and you can upgrade to fully serviced pitches. The toilet and shower buildings are heated and there are accessible facilities. The site has a shop, and fishing is available. In addition, there is an outdoor pool, two play areas, a tennis court, games room, and also a café.

A bridleway borders the park which is ideal for walkers and cyclists. A bus stop half a mile from the site enables you to avoid any parking hassles when exploring Chester.

SakhanPhotography/stock.adobe.com

SKELWITH FOLD CARAVAN PARK

Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0HY T 01539 432277 W skelwith.com OPEN 1 March – 17 November

In a splendid location in the Lake District, Skelwith Fold is ideally situated just two miles from the northern tip of Lake Windermere and only 1.5 miles from the popular market town of Ambleside.

The site recently won the title of Cumbria Tourism Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year 2024, and is set within 130 acres of ancient woodland with plenty of trails to explore and wildlife to look out for – there's even a nature hide.

There are 70 standard hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups, and 22 premium pitches which are larger, fully serviced and have picnic tables.

Touring guests have access to a five-acre recreation area with views to the surrounding fells, toilets and showers, a launderette, dog wash, barbecue area, play area, library and shop.

There are well-known Lake District attractions such as Rydal Cave and the National Trust's Wray Castle just a short drive away.

Pixabay

Chris Dorney/stock.adobe.com

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HELIGAN CARAVAN & CAMPING PARK

St Ewe, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6EL T 01726 842714 W heligancampsite.com OPEN 31 January – 16 November

Rated five pennants by the AA, five stars by VisitEngland, and a member of our own high-quality campsite group, Premier Parks, Heligan Caravan & Camping Park is something special. Not only is the site outstanding, but its location, right next to the famous Lost Gardens of Heligan, make for a magical getaway.

Guests can enjoy discounted entry into the gardens which were uncovered and restored to now provide 200 acres of gardens, grounds, woodland and wildlife. The estate also has a shop, food hall, plant sales, restaurant and takeaway. The gardens are dog friendly.

The touring area at Heligan offers grass pitches, or hardstanding with electric hook-ups, and spacious grass areas. There are toilet and shower facilities, a laundry room, and even a dog shower.

Heligan also holds a Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence and was previously awarded bronze in the Cornwall Tourism Awards.

Terence Rees/stock.adobe.com

TYDDYN ISAF CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK

Lligwy Bay, Dulas, Anglesey LL70 9PQ T 01248 410203 W tyddynisaf.co.uk OPEN 8 March – 31 October

Overlooking Lligwy Bay, Tyddyn Isaf holds the title of AA Campsite of the Year Wales and Overall Winner 2024/25. The AA inspectors noted the site's superb amenity blocks, with most set up as private cubicles, the on-site bistro that offers alfresco dining, and the stunning countryside views.

Tyddyn Isaf also has a nature trail, a shop, a gym, a woodland area, and a takeaway. Pitch types include hardstandings with full services, and hardstandings with electric hook-up. Some pitches have views of the sandy Lligwy beach. There is a footpath from the site that leads directly down to the beach.

Tyddyn Isaf also has several eco and conservation awards and the site's owners have planted over 8,500 trees that have developed into mature woodland for guests to enjoy for relaxation, and wildlife spotting.

»

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The site is open from 15 March to 15 November.

WELLS, IS 18 MILES FROM THE PARK; HISTORIC FASCINATION, STUNNING ARCHITECTURE AND TWICE WEEKLY MARKETS ARE ATTRACTIONS HERE.

An idyllic family-friendly holiday park, located on level ground, set on a working farm, with views of the Mendip Hills, Dulhorn Farm Holiday Park has various countryside walks from the site, to enjoy exploring the area.

Children can enjoy hours of fun on the site's play areas, whilst parents can oversee them.

The seaside town of Weston-super-Mare is just a short drive away. Also, Brean and Burnham-on-Sea are nearby, with lovely sandy beaches,

The site has some seasonal pitches available for the season 2025. You can site your caravan and stay for the season; there's no need to tow or move your caravan – it's ready set up as your escape to the country.

Dulhorn Farm Holiday Park has a fishing lake for customers to enjoy, and some seasonal pitches are available nearby.

The site's sports field is available for all to use, for football and basketball, and there is also a separate rugby pitch. In the summer there is a marquee for table-top games.

This is a dog-friendly site with an exercise field where they can run free, and also a dog walk. The site's dog shower has proved popular; very useful when your pooch has muddy paws.

Facilities include toilets and shower blocks with disabled/family rooms.

Security and safety of Dulhorn's customers is top priority; this is a secure site with numberplate barrier recognition for vehicles.

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Email: info@dulhornfarm.co.uk
www.dulhornfarmholidaypark.co.uk

DulhornHoliday
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OLD OAKS TOURING & GLAMPING

Wick Farm, Wick, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JS T 01458 831437 W theoldoaks.co.uk OPEN 1 March – 16 November

Not only does this adults-only site near Glastonbury have a host of awards, it also has some super impressive green credentials. The most recent award was the AA Sustainable Park of the Year 2024/25, and Old Oaks has held a David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award for 15 years.

Just some of the initiatives taken to earn these green credentials include a facilities block built using energy-efficient technology; actively encouraging wildlife by keeping areas wild and creating a woodland walk and wildflower meadow, plus extensive planting of trees, shrubs and hedging.

There are a variety of pitches on the site, along with a fishing lake, a shop, and a dog field with a swimming pond!

Old Oaks is just one and a half miles from Glastonbury Tor and only two miles from eclectic Glastonbury itself.

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Kenninghall Road, Banham, Norfolk NR16 2HE T 01953 715319 W applewoodholidays.co.uk OPEN All year

A new member of the high-quality Premier Parks campsite group for 2025, Applewood Countrywide Park holds the title of Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year 2023/24 in the East of England Tourism Awards.

Ideal for wildlife enthusiasts, and also families, this site is just a five-minute walk from Banham Zoo – you wake up to the sounds of roaring tigers! Discounted entry tickets to the zoo are available from the site's reception. The site is only six miles from Thetford Forest Park, whose patchwork of pines and heathland provide a great place for walking and cycling, and just 12 miles from the market town of Thetford which has shops, museums and places to eat.

Applewood Countryside Park has hardstanding electric hook-up pitches, along with designated accessible pitches. Facilities include toilets, showers, and a laundry room, plus a children's play trail and covered games den.

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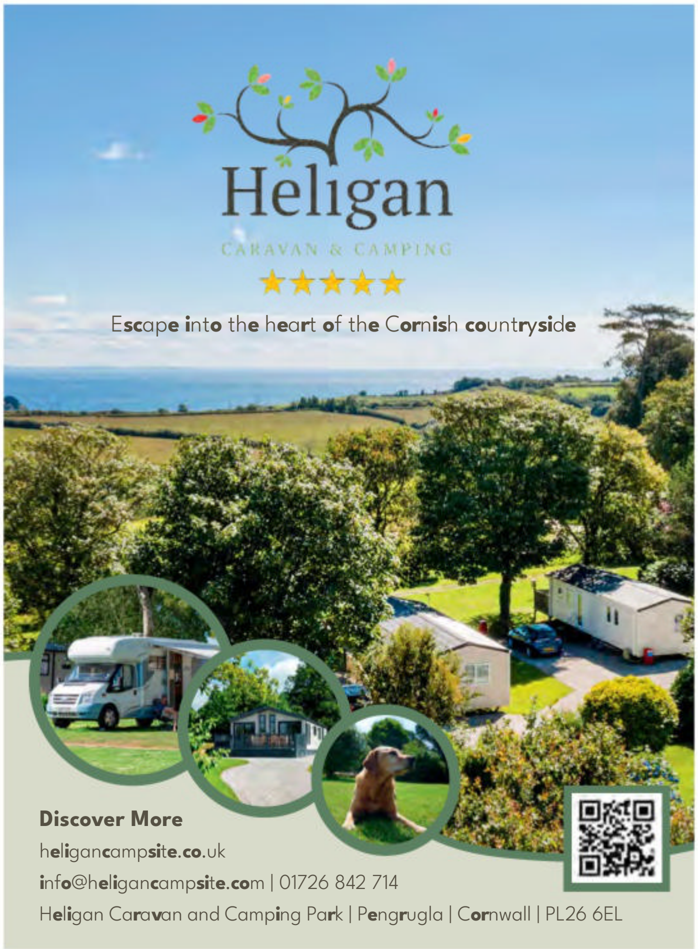
CORNWALL



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SA14 8AX T 01554 820420
W southwalescarvansite.co.uk
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A long-standing member of the Premier Parks group, Llwynifan Farm has several other quality recognitions under its belt. The site received a Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award in 2024, is rated five stars from VisitWales, and was a Wales Prestige Awards 2024/25 winner. Llwynifan Farm also won at the Welsh Hospitality Awards in 2023, and the top-notch site facilities have been awarded Loo of the Year Platinum for 2024.

Llwynifan Farm is a small, 25-pitch, adults-only site in south Wales, easily accessed from the M4 and five miles from Llanelli. This market town is situated on the Loughor Estuary and has a vast sandy beach, a golf course, and a Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust centre.

All pitches are hardstanding with electric hook-up, and they are terraced to give great views. Ten of the pitches are fully serviced. In addition to the award-winning washrooms, there is a laundry room, dishwashing, a dog exercise field and a dog shower.

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T 01964 562508 W burtonconstableholidaypark.co.uk OPEN 14 March – 1 November

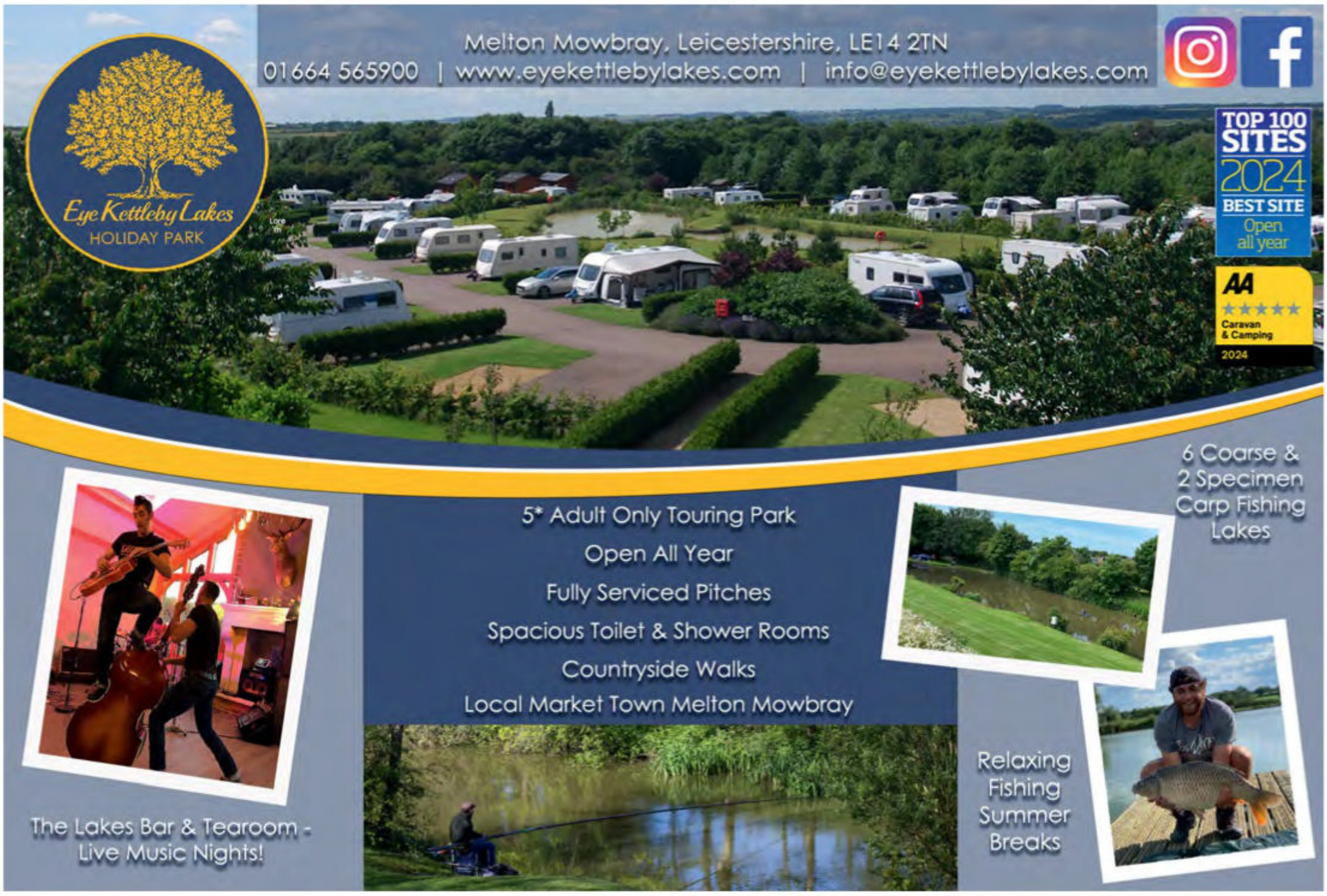
The perfect place for a relaxing retreat – you enter the holiday park through the arch of the eighteenth century gatehouse and an arboretum and tranquil lakes also greet you. As well as touring pitches and caravan holiday homes, Burton Constable has a botanical garden housing tree and plant species from across the world. There is also a vast area of parkland with north and south lakes, where fishing is available.

There are grass and hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups, or you can upgrade to a premium lakeview pitch. In addition to the usual campsite facilities there is a lakeside bar, an on-site catering van, and a shop selling essential items.

For exploring locally, in opposite directions, the coast and Hull are only seven miles away, and the local village, Sproatley, has a couple of pubs.

In terms of awards, Burton Constable is rated AA five pennants and VisitEngland five star. The site holds a 2023 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice award, and has held the David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award for 11 consecutive years. ■

LEICESTERSHIRE



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FLAXTON MEADOWS

North Yorkshire

An eco-friendly, adults-only campsite, near the magnificent city of York

Flaxton Meadows eco-campsite is located in North Yorkshire's beautiful countryside renowned for its wildlife and scenery. Guests have a range of accommodation to choose from, including touring pitches (hardstanding or grass) with natural screening and electric hook-ups, and camping pitches with electric hook-up. There are also handcrafted luxury log cabins, built using the park's experienced joiners. They provide a peaceful retreat for those wishing to enjoy nature, yet within easy reach of a wide range of amenities. We caught up with the owner, Jon Charters-Reid, to find out more.

How long have you been running your campsite?

Flaxton Meadows welcomed its first guests in 2020; it has been an interesting four years running an eco-campsite.

Tell us a little about your site and how it first began

I have always been passionate about camping and love the outdoors. As a York Minster trained cabinet maker and joiner, the entire site has been built by myself. My father was a coal miner, and he encouraged hard work and ideas. My grandad was a carpenter and I followed in his footsteps. I wanted to build a campsite that provides excellent access to York and Yorkshire's surrounding attractions, but which also provides a low carbon footprint for eco-conscious guests to stay and enjoy. My aim was to try and keep camping costs low because of our eco measures.

What did you do before becoming the owner of this site?

As well as running a campsite I am also a Building Surveying, MRICS, Chartered Building Surveyor, MCIOB Chartered Building Surveying, CABE, Chartered Building Engineer and RICS Registered Valuer and a published author.

What made you want to own and run a campsite?

I wanted to provide quality camping at a reasonable price.

What do you like most about being a campsite owner?

Talking to our guests and seeing happy campers.

What are the challenges?

The biggest challenge is the Government increasing energy costs and National Insurance costs.

What is a typical day like for you?

A typical day is firstly ensuring the staff are happy, which in turn equals happy campers; constant marketing; maintenance and improving the site.

What do you feel makes your site special and appealing to the guests who return every year?

Flaxton Meadows has a sense of community; our down-to-earth warm welcome makes campers feel at home.

What do you love about the region in which your site is based?

I particularly like York city centre and York Minster as this is where I was an apprentice joiner for four years.

What do you like to do on a rare day off?

On my rare days off, Whitby is one of my favourite places to visit.

info

FLAXTON MEADOWS
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It's time for a very special celebration – of excellence in the caravan market. Britain's collection of caravans for 2025 includes some that are awesomely on target for their market, some caravans that are awesomely luxurious – and many that are awesomely good value for money. Awesome may be an overused word, but it's spot-on to sum up many of the models that are right now paraded before your eyes if you are in the market for a new tourer. And that made our judging team's task a daunting one.

We perused the models at manufacturers' launch events in the summer, at the Harrogate show in September, and at the NEC caravan show in October. Throughout, we inspected some cracking caravans, and so had a really tough task in the process of selecting the best caravans in each of our categories – and then, even harder: the overall winner that takes the prestigious title of Caravan of the Year.

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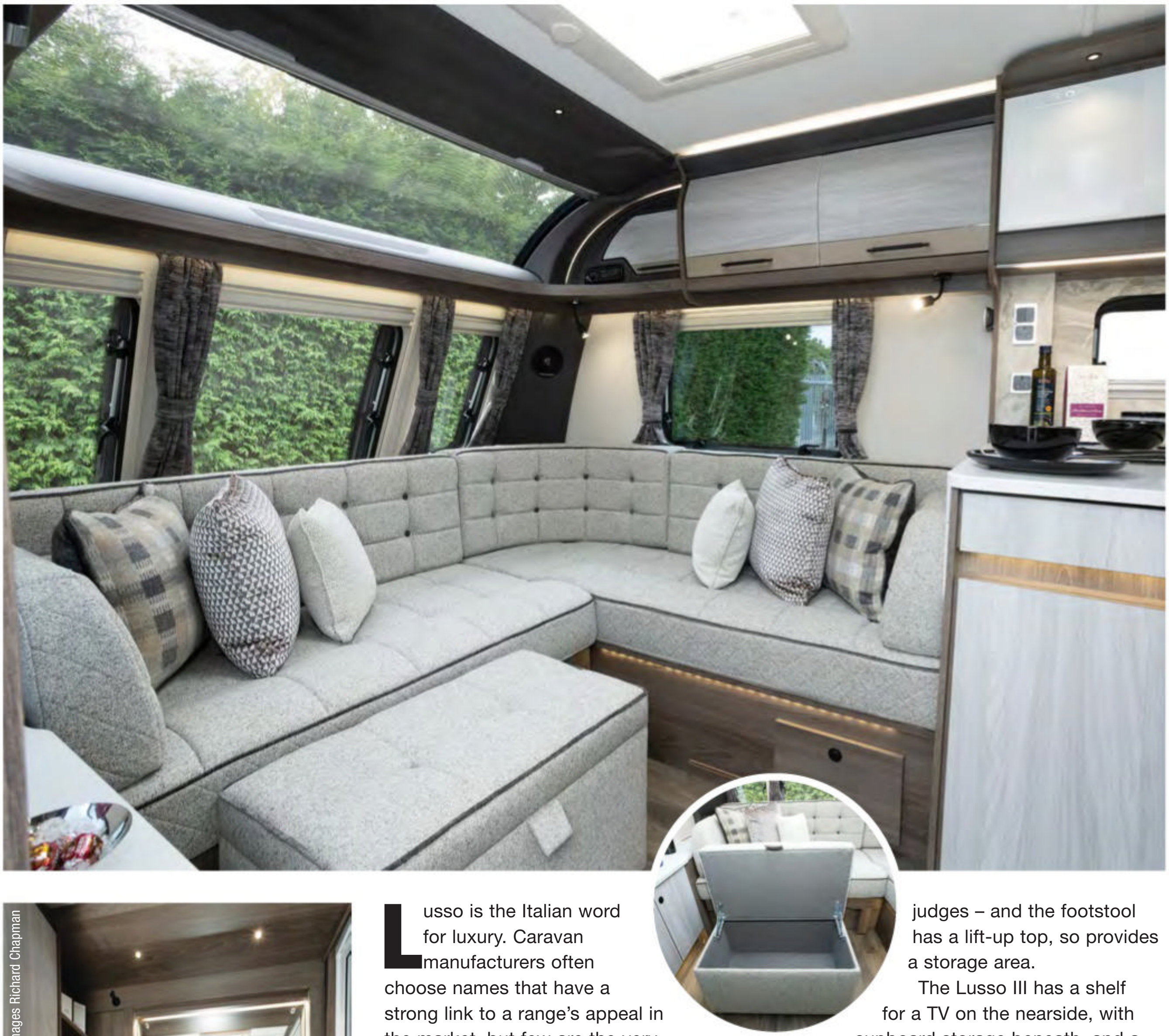
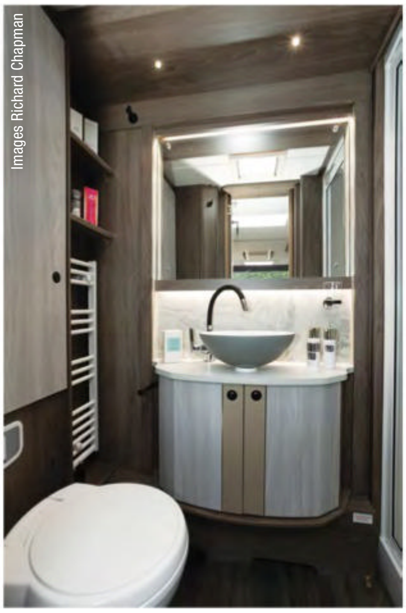
Best Luxury Caravan

WINNER Coachman Lusso III





Images Richard Chapman

Lusso is the Italian word for luxury. Caravan manufacturers often choose names that have a strong link to a range's appeal in the market, but few are the very personification of the name on the side.

This is the third model in the Lusso line-up; it's new for 2025. It's a four-berth with fixed single beds, an L-shaped lounge (that converts to a double bed), a superb L-shaped kitchen and an end shower room that easily matches Coachman's reputation for making super-luxury washing zones.

And there's something unique: a footstool/seat that can be moved anywhere in the lounge – and provides an extra option for dining seating. L-shaped lounges often present a challenge when four are dining; not so in the Lusso III. This was one of many elements that impressed the judges – and the footstool has a lift-up top, so provides a storage area.

The Lusso III has a shelf for a TV on the nearside, with cupboard storage beneath, and a window above, which isn't always the case with L-shaped lounges. This is another feature that impressed the judges, because it means you can keep it as a media wall and your TV (if it's a large one) will block the window anyway, or have the window and shelf beneath it as a coffee mug shelf.

The eight-foot width of the Lusso III allows for an L-shaped kitchen. This shape not only increases the kitchen surface significantly but also serves to partition off the lounge area from the culinary one.

There's a lot of storage opportunity in the kitchen, from extending cage drawers under the counter to a larder-style area

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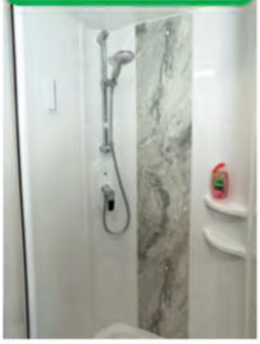


next to the fridge. The work surface is a granite-effect, with a matching sink cover to increase the usable surface area. And the splashback stretches the entire length of kitchen wall. It's in a marble effect and melds perfectly with the granite worktop; luxury looks abound in this model.

The fixed single beds are lower in height than you may expect. This means the bedroom area feels very open and spacious. The headboards are clad in a sumptuous leather fabric, and have subtle recessed lighting around.

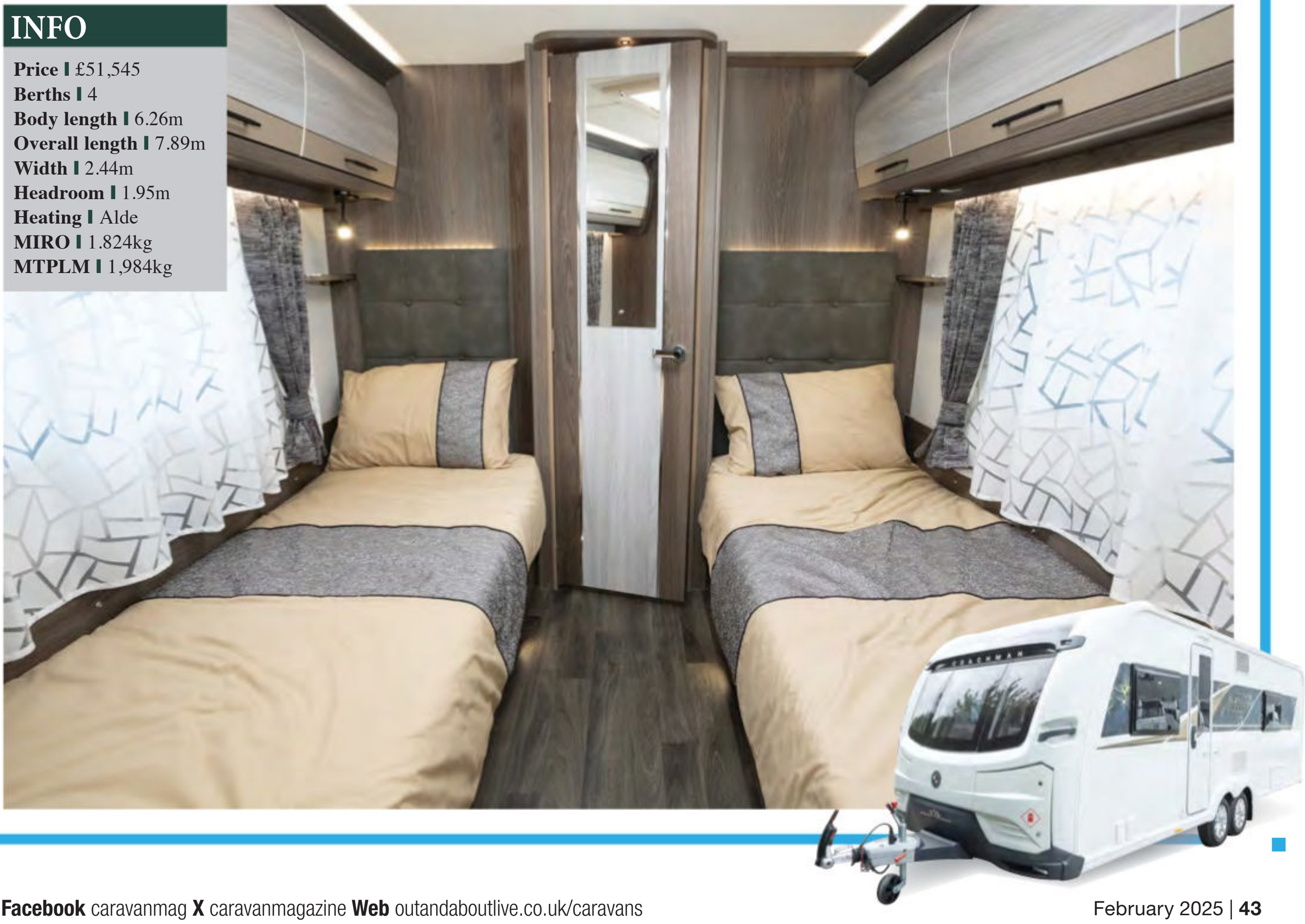
The shower room is, as you would expect in a Coachman, large and luxurious. The raised basin allows for surface space around it, and the under-basin cabinet fulfils all of its storage requirements whilst managing to tick every style box along the way.

So, a footstool that transforms the lounge into a dining room with ease, top spec that includes the E&P self-levelling system, Truma Aventa Comfort air-conditioning unit and the Alde Flow heat exchanger that gives you continuous 40°C shower water as long as you have a fresh water supply…

Luxury in name and nature, then! The Lusso III easily gathered top marks during the judging process.

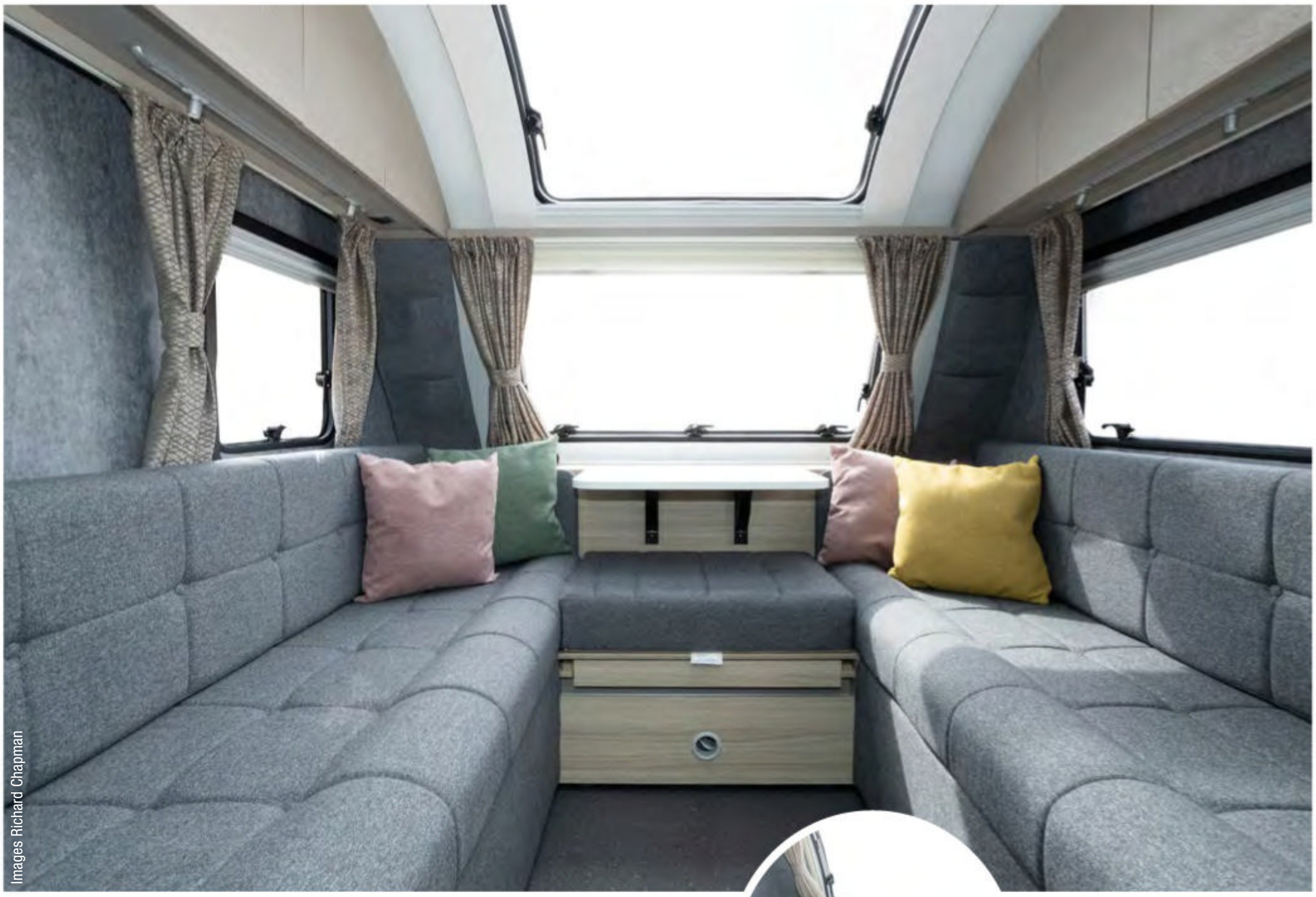
INFO

Price I £51,545
Berths I 4
Body length I 6.26m
Overall length I 7.89m
Width I 2.44m
Headroom I 1.95m
Heating I Alde
MIRO I 1.824kg
MTPLM I 1,984kg



Best Caravan Under £30,000

JOINT WINNER Adria Altea Dart



Images Richard Chapman

The rear island bed, central shower room concept appears in all caravan manufacturers' ranges. But the vast majority of them are priced at over £30,000.

The Adria Altea Dart brings the luxury of this super-popular layout into the realms of what may be termed budget caravans.

But it didn't become joint winner of this award on price alone, of course. What's special about the Dart goes a lot further than its obvious value. For a start, it has U-shaped lounge seating, so at least five can sit here. And there's versatility, in the form of a coffee and snacks table that hinges up from the front wall. You can't use the centre front seating area when it's in place, of course, but the whole point is that, when coffee time is over, it can be folded back down, and the lounge regains its superb spaciousness.

Styling won praise from the judges, too. Plain dark (therefore practical) upholstery is teamed with pale gold curtains. The light-reflecting, rather luxurious, gold hue is the base for an irregular diamond pattern on the curtains.

Two stunning and unusual features are the side wallcovering and the pockets at the front. The sidewalls are covered in what looks like (mottled grey) fabric – until you touch it, and realise that is actually wallpaper; very refined.

Four fabric pockets can be found at the front of the lounge, two on each side of the window. Two more, smaller pockets are at the front edges of the sofas. All of them designed to help you to keep your Dart neat and tidy.

And there's more in terms of little and ingenious features to impress you. Three tiny, white metal shelves are attached to a pole that sits in corner of the kitchen by the sink. You can swivel these shelves around, to suit your task; they're perfect for small items such as salt and pepper containers or your washing-up brush and other kitchen necessities that you may need at hand.

All of these things add up to a tourer that

belies its price level, looking and feeling much more expensive than it is.

The Dart's fridge is the Thetford tall slimline model. It's opposite the kitchen. Cooking kit is a combined oven/grill, a microwave and a hob that has three burners arranged in a line, with surface space in front of it. There's also an extension to hinge up on the fore end of the kitchen. There are cabinets above and below the fridge/freezer; two drawers, plus two drop-down-front cabinets, are in the main kitchen area.

There are several elements of the Dart's bedroom that add up to luxury. Recessed shelves in the bases of the wardrobes on each side of the bed are perfect for coffee cups. On one side, two USB ports are beside the shelf. TV points are on the fore end of the bedroom.

We love the large windows on both sides of the bedroom, with curtains that hang from illuminated rails. And there's more to add to this bedroom's luxury status. Each pillow section can be raised, sunlounger-style, to create a daytime lounging environment. A sliding door separates the bedroom from the shower on the nearside and the toilet/washbasin room opposite. When the door to this area is opened, it closes across the caravan, dividing the bedroom and washing area from the kitchen.

INFO

Price | £29,340
Berths | 4
Body length | 6.9m
Overall length | 8.26m
Width | 2.29m
Headroom | 1.95m
Heating | Truma
MIRO | 1,360kg
MTPLM | 1,800kg

2024 WRAPPED UP

OVER 25,000	OVER 50,000	1,518	98%
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First time in a long time certainly before Covid I came a day early on the Thursday and stayed till the Monday usually come Friday and normally done by Sunday but this year the show was absolutely awesome. Well done all involved. Let's hope they get bigger and better as the years go on.
Dave Nash

Got the delight of listening to Darren at the Southwest show this weekend. Such an informative and fun delivery. Given me lots of inspiration!
Leanne Leanne

Amazing weekend! First time to a Warners show and i must say was well worth the visit down and stay. Entertainment was top class... amazingly clean site and the organisers and staff were lovely. Special shout out to the security staff in hall severn who were polite and did a fabulous job keeping everyone safe and also the fire guys in the red fire car who kept patrolling the site keeping an eye. They also assisted an elderly couple near where we were parked with an incident and they even commeneted how professional they were and caring. I definitely will be attending more Warners events and those who are thinking about it. Do it... you will not be disappointed.
Heather Golby

We just got home after our first time there... fantastic weekend, thanks guys. x
Liz Greenwood

We have just come home from Malvern, had a fab time, will defo book again, well worth the money.
Paula Morrison

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16 - 18 MAY 2025
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THE NATIONAL MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW
13 - 15 JUNE 2025
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18 - 20 JULY 2025
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8 - 10 AUG 2025
Newbury Showground

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW
15 - 17 AUGUST 2025
Three Counties Showground

THE SOUTH WEST MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW
5 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2025
Bath & West Showground

THE MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW SEASON FINALE
19 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2025
Lincoln Showground

THE MALVERN CARAVAN & MOTORHOME SHOW
3 - 5 OCTOBER 2025
Three Counties Showground

Best Caravan Under £30,000

JOINT WINNER

Xplore XC Quad

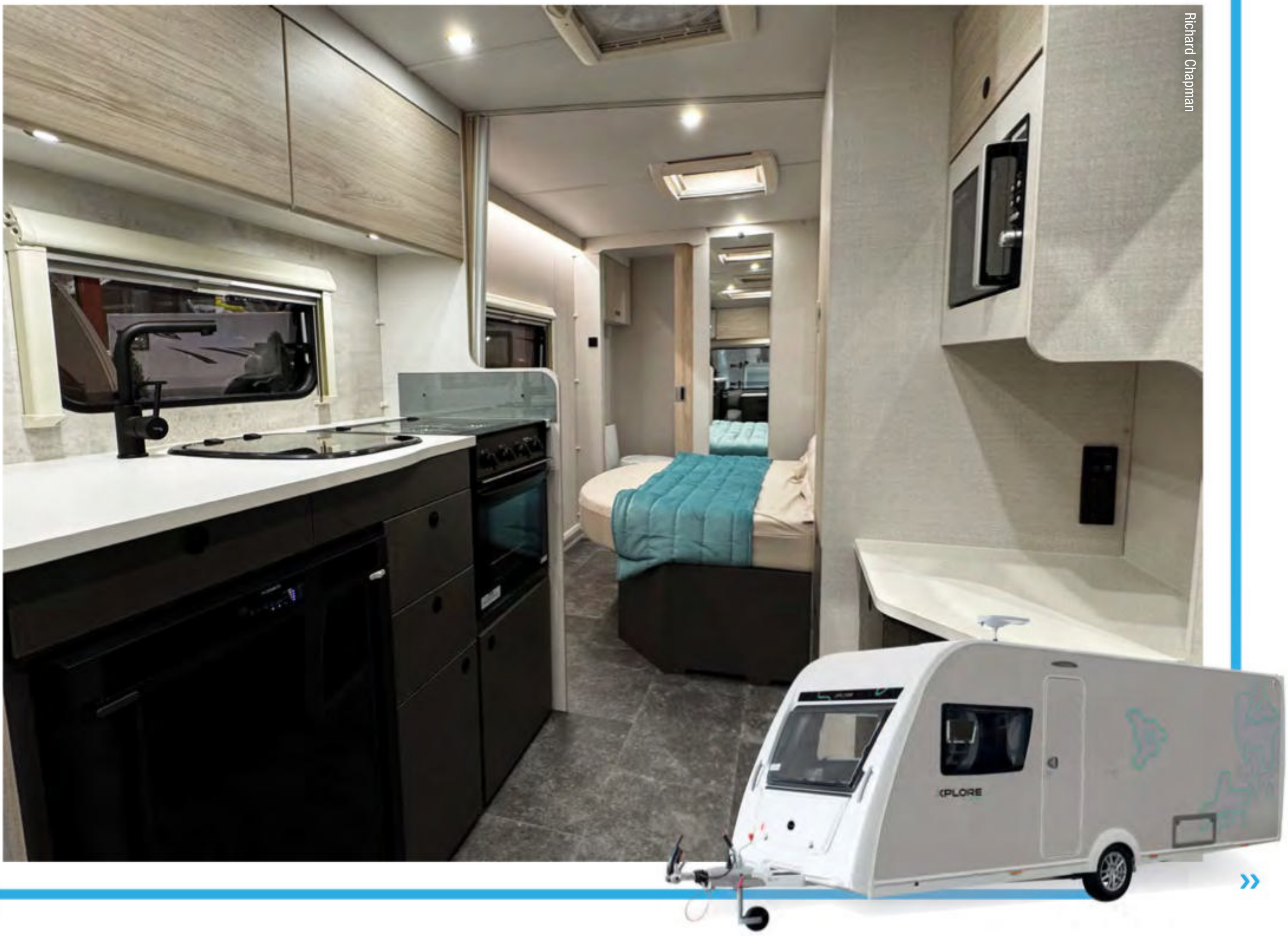
The Xplore brand has been reinvented for 2025, with bright and refreshing styling, and prices that represent cracking value for money. There are three models, all designed specifically to appeal to adventure seekers who like their creature comforts.

The XC Quad is the largest in the range, with the luxury of an island bed. It's light in weight and has a quality feel alongside its first-rate price and weight credentials. Shortlisted in the Best Caravan under £30,000 category, the Xplore XC Quad went head to head with another strong contender, the Adria Altea Dart and, when it came to totting up the scores, we discovered that our judges had awarded equal marks to both models. So, for the first time in the history of the Caravan Awards, we have two winners in one category.

Xplore XC Quad excels in terms of value, and impressed our judges with its super-modern décor, using dark and light grey to grab attention alongside white, and ultra-pale woodwork. In line with the Xplore tradition of employing bright accent colours, the XCs have square scatter cushions of turquoise, orange, mustard, navy and cream geometric pattern, and exterior graphics that have turquoise and grey in a pattern that has just a suggestion of contour marks on a map – a reflection of the outdoor, adventure appeal. The bedhead is bright turquoise – and buttons on the pale grey seating units are also bright turquoise; little things count. Even the doormat is dark turquoise.

The Quad's layout provides an island bed, flanked by wardrobes with drawers

Richard Chapman



Richard Chapman

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Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

beneath, and a rear shower room in which the on-trend interior design element of black shower and tap fittings injects a quality look.

The kitchen tap is also black, along with the gleaming enamel sink. Cooking equipment is a mains hotplate plus two burners, a combined oven/grill and, opposite, a microwave, at a height that will suit most statures. Between the oven/grill and the fridge are two drawers and a cabinet; there's also a cabinet under the oven/grill, and a cabinet and drawer opposite, plus a cupboard above the microwave. That's in addition to two top cabinets over the kitchen. So, kitchen storage, for a caravan that's only 5.74m in body length, is superbly generous.

We love the one-piece front window that creates a panoramic view. We love the seven bright spotlights set into the roof. The grey mottled floor tiles rather than a carpet adds to the modern aspect. More than anything, we love the price, making this new Xplore stand out as extraordinary value. And just look what's included as standard: a cycle rack, a wheel lock, an Omnivent extractor fan, a barbecue point, an exterior mains socket, and an alarm system.

INFO

Price I £25,499
Berths I 4
Body length I 5.74m
Overall length I 7.38m
Width I 2.18m
Headroom I 1.95m
Heating I Whale
MIRO I 1,226kg
MTPLM I 1,380kg

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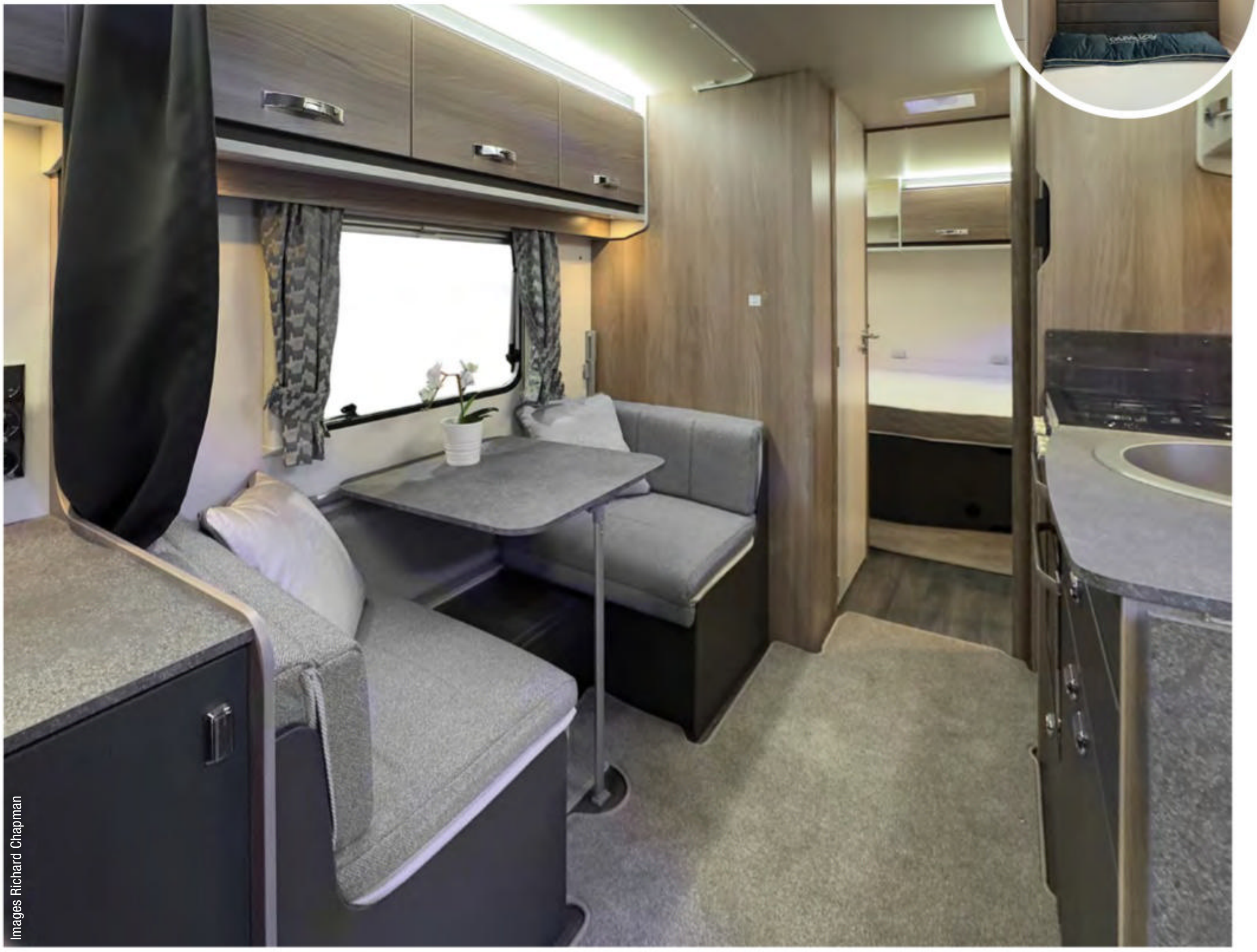
Best Family Caravan

WINNER Sprite Quattro MB



Images Richard Chapman

When Swift invented the new-for-2025 Sprite Quattro MB, the company had versatility at the top of the list of important elements. And that's what impressed our judges as they sifted through the myriad of choice in the family layout market.

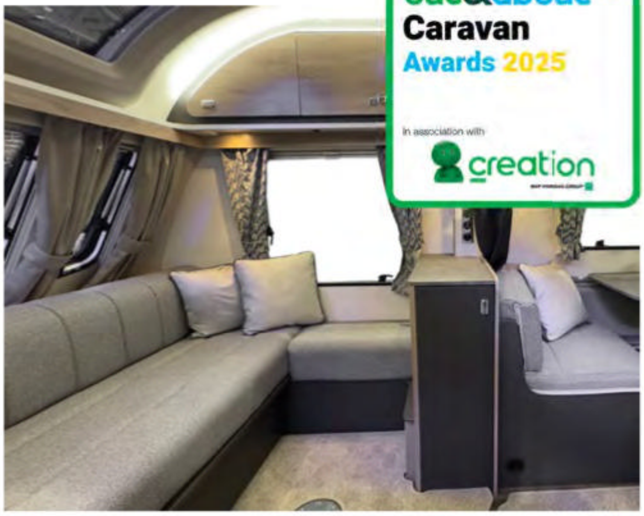
This is a six-berth tourer. It has an offside dining area that makes into two bunks, an L-shaped lounge that transforms into a double bed, and a secluded bedroom at the rear. That's the element that sets it apart from the pack and gives a strong clue to this caravan's versatility.

The bed is aligned across the caravan, in a unique bedroom layout that creates an ultra-cosy environment. This is not, as you may first assume, simply a bedroom for parents. It would be ideal for two very young children, in travel or carry cots on the bed. Or, equally for someone teenage who needs their own space – and they also get a TV point in the bedroom. And there's something very refined here that you wouldn't expect at this price point. The lighting above the side and rear lockers can be dimmed (a switch is alongside the bed).

Forward of the bedroom is the shower, with lovely marble-effect walls. The washbasin/toilet room is opposite. When you close the door, segmenting the bedroom and showering sector from the rest of the caravan, there's an almost total light barrier.

A dark brown curtain tracks around the offside bunk area. The fabric is so dense that it would exclude most of the light; another pointer to the MB's efficiency as a family caravan.

The fridge/freezer is Thetford's tall



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slimline model. The hob has a hotplate as well as three burners. There's an oven and separate grill. The microwave sits on the fore end of the kitchen, alongside two top lockers. A wide drawer containing a cutlery tray, and a double-doored cabinet, provide ample storage space. So, a well-designed kitchen with good storage space.

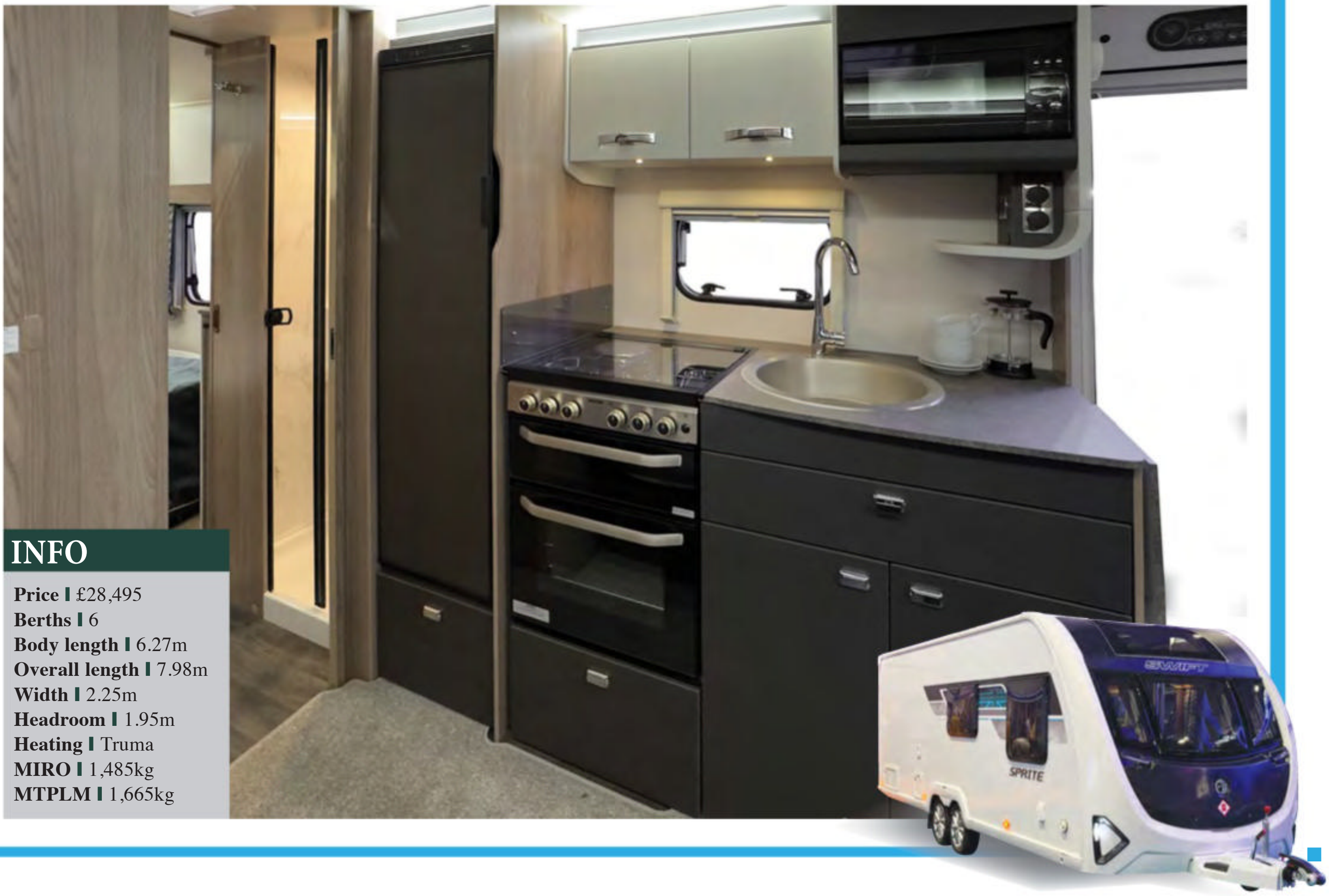
Storage elsewhere earned praise from our judges, too. There's the space under the double bed, which raises easily, supported on spring hinges. There's also space under the offside dining area, and, of course, under the lounge seating, plus four lockers over the lounge.

Four cushions are here to keep you cosy. They're shimmering ivory fabric on one side and grey velvet on the other. The curtains combine these two shades in an abstract zigzag pattern.

The whole look is smart and with a definite air of luxury that rises above this caravan's price status.

The MB is an outstanding caravan. You get a lot of caravan for your money. It rides on twin axles, so has enhanced road stability.

It offers lots of sleeping options that will suit families from the baby era right up to teenage. And it's £28,495, so represents fantastic value. A winner in so many ways.



INFO

Price | £28,495
Berths | 6
Body length | 6.27m
Overall length | 7.98m
Width | 2.25m
Headroom | 1.95m
Heating | Truma
MIRO | 1,485kg
MTPLM | 1,665kg

SWIFT

Sprite Quattro MB

WINNER: CARAVAN OF THE YEAR & BEST FAMILY CARAVAN

The UK's best-selling caravan range just got better

With a fresh new design, enhanced features, and award-winning layouts like the spacious 6-berth Quattro MB, Sprite continues to lead the way as a family favourite.

Explore the full range at **swiftgroup.co.uk**

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CARAVAN OF THE YEAR 2025
Swift Sprite Quattro MB
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BEST FAMILY CARAVAN
Swift Sprite Quattro MB
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Scan to take a virtual tour

Your Home Anywhere

MANUFACTURED IN BRITAIN

Coolest Caravan

WINNER

Swift Basecamp 2

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Since it burst onto the caravanning scene with the aim of grabbing not just sales but visual attention, Swift's Basecamp 2 has risen to icon status. This diminutive two-berth was unveiled in 2017.

Immediately, it appealed to buyers who wanted something different and, today, the niche it has carved out is growing ever stronger.

Basecamp 2 had a few graphics and interior colour changes along those eight years but the basic concept has stayed the same: to accommodate two people for adventure-oriented holidays – not just the people, but their cycles, too.

It's practical – and it's cool, which is why it's the winner of our Coolest Caravan. What, exactly, then, is cool about it? A rear door so that you can

Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

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Richard Chapman

Richard Chapman

wheel cycles inside. Seating that folds upwards against the walls to make space for them. Four securing points to hold them in place.

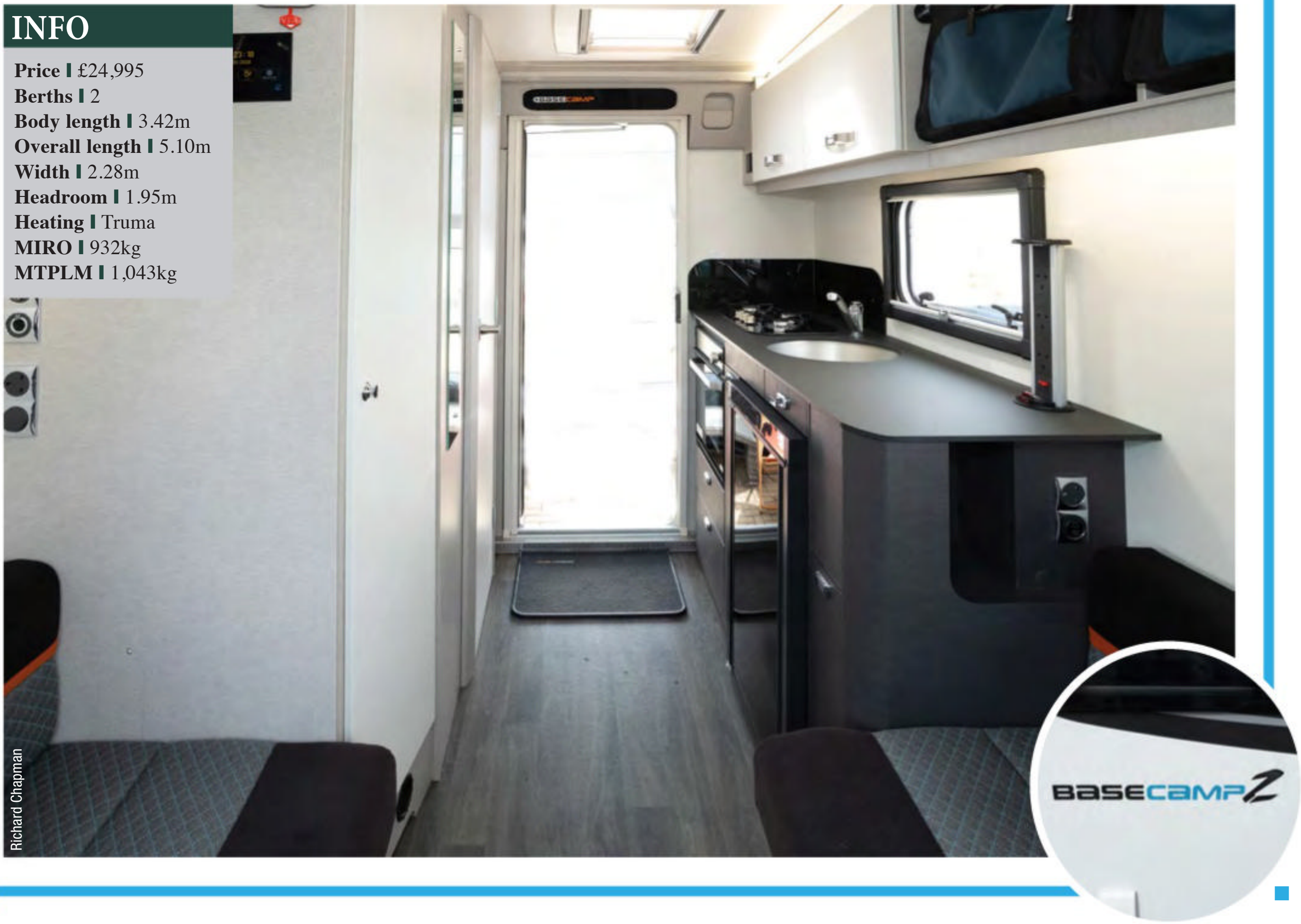
A practical kitchen, complete with oven/grill, fridge and three-burner hob, plus a rise-and-fall unit of three mains power points.

Kitchen surface space is excellent for a compact caravan. And so is the amount of storage space – two drawers under the oven and two narrow cabinets plus a cutlery drawer and two top cabinets.

Instead of traditional top lockers, Basecamp 2 has three zipped clothing containers that you can unclip from the rails that hold them in place, and take them into your house for packing and unpacking.

The combined shower/toilet compartment is a respectable size for a caravan that's just over 5m long. There's a proper wardrobe, too. And bags of style, including the refinement of a stitched diamond pattern in panels on the upholstery.

Conceived for adventure, all you need is here – and with head-turning shape and style, the judges agreed that the Basecamp 2 is a worthy winner of the title Coolest Caravan.



Richard Chapman

INFO

Price I £24,995
Berths I 2
Body length I 3.42m
Overall length I 5.10m
Width I 2.28m
Headroom I 1.95m
Heating I Truma
MIRO I 932kg
MTPLM I 1,043kg

SWIFT

Basecamp 2

WINNER: COOLEST CARAVAN

Crossover camping that redefines adventure

Compact, lightweight and built for the bold, the award-winning Basecamp 2 is perfect for exploring off the beaten track. With its sporty design and rugged versatility, it's no wonder Basecamp 2 is officially the **Coolest Caravan**.

Find your Basecamp at **swiftgroup.co.uk**

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COOLEST CARAVAN
Swift Basecamp 2
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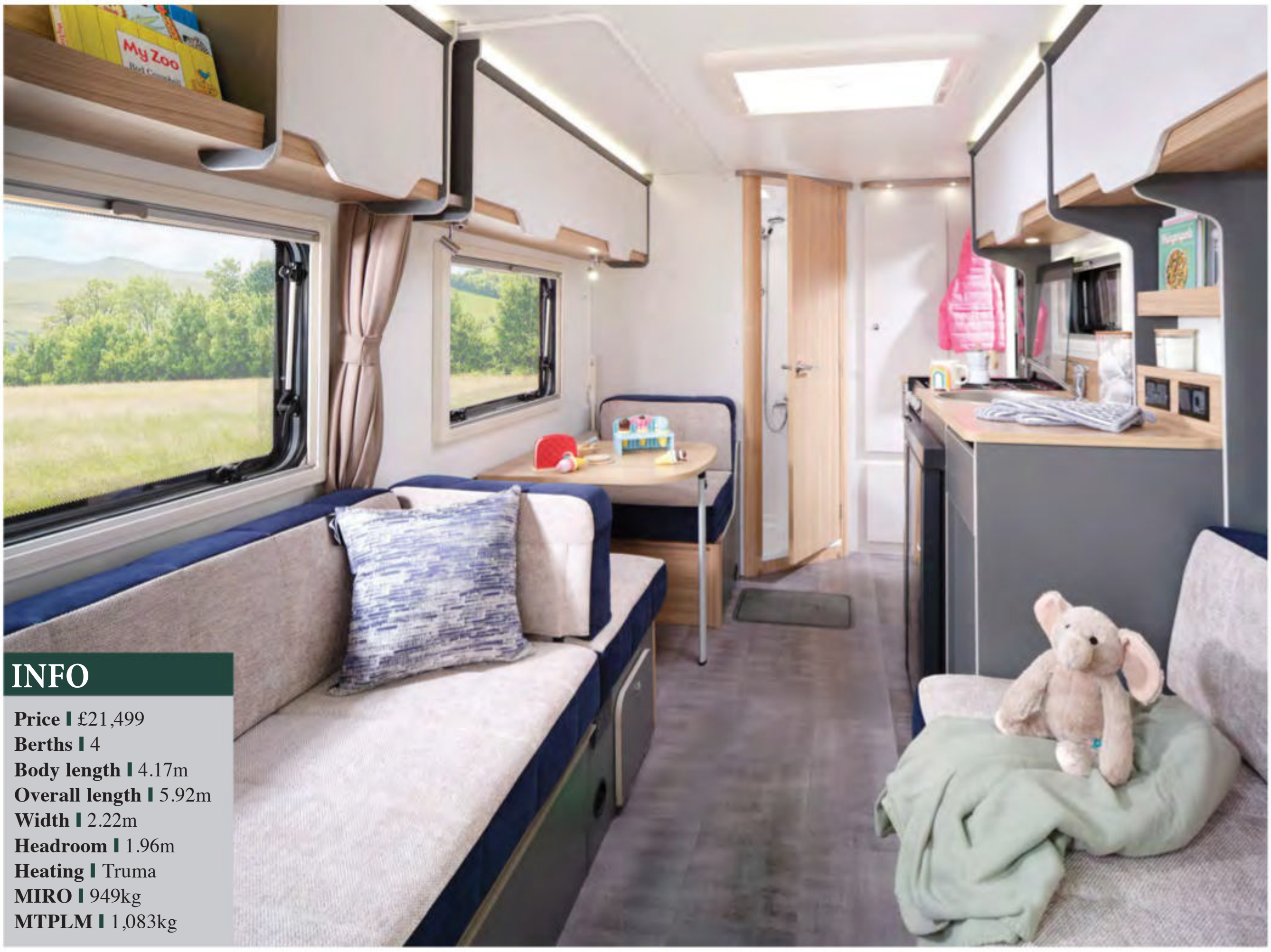
MANUFACTURED IN BRITAIN

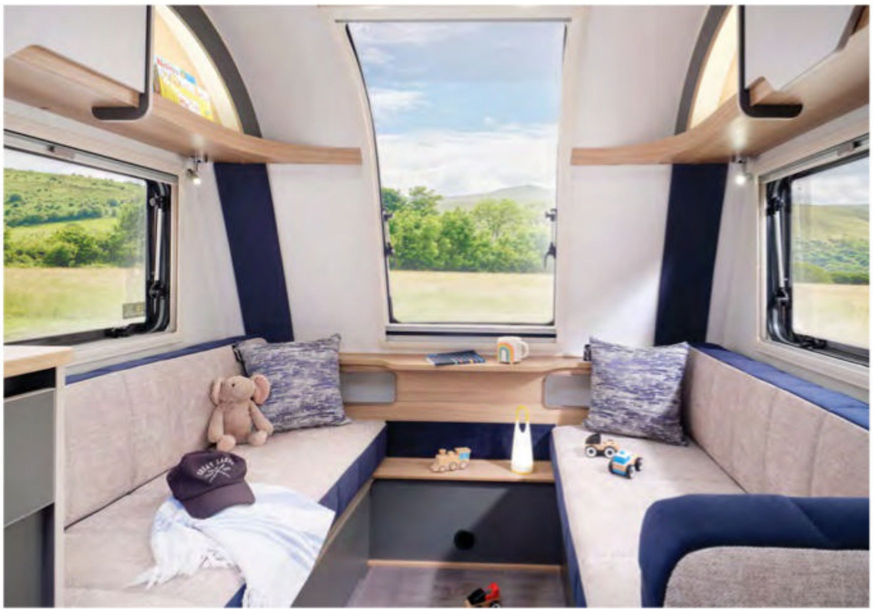
Best Lightweight and Compact Caravan

WINNER Bailey Discovery D4-4L



INFO

Price | £21,499
Berths | 4
Body length | 4.17m
Overall length | 5.92m
Width | 2.22m
Headroom | 1.96m
Heating | Truma
MIRO | 949kg
MTPLM | 1,083kg



This caravan is a star performer in a number of ways. It's extremely light in weight. It's a family caravan. And it's only £21,499. Add in its eye-catching shape that is guaranteed to appeal to buyers who want their caravan to be noticed on roads and on sites, and you can be sure that this four-berth caravan is something really special.

Yes, there are a few other caravans that come into the weight category for this award. But caravans don't win awards on figures alone. And the judges felt that the efficiency of this model as a family caravan merited recognition.

That is especially true in terms of the amazing spaciousness of its combined shower/toilet room, that provides enough space for more than one little caravanner to shower at the same time – and for a parent to be in the doorway to supervise.

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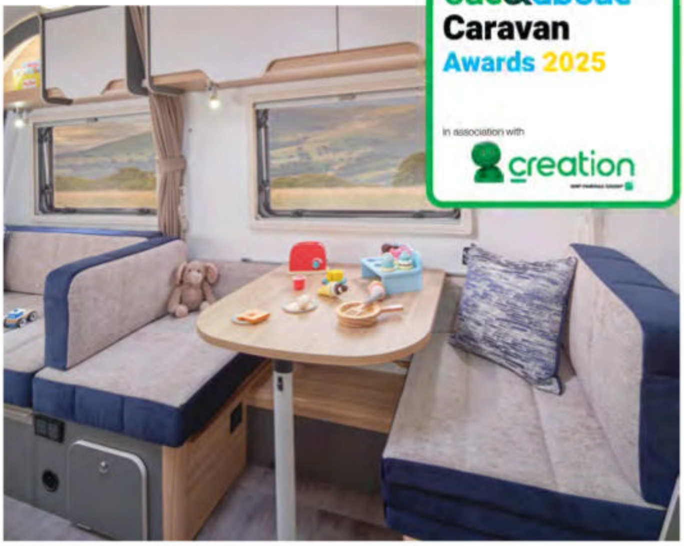


The Discovery D4-4L also gained marks for the generous size of its wardrobe that contains four large shelves plus plenty of hanging space.

And for its kitchen, which has a good amount of surface space for a caravan that has a body length of only 4.17m. Kitchen storage space – again respecting the caravan's dimensions – is good, with a large cabinet under the combined oven/grill, plus two top cabinets.

Two cabinets are above the lounge and a further two are above the offside two-person dining area that converts to bunks. So, overall, storage is first-rate for a compact caravan.

The D4-4L has a total of five mains sockets. Two are in the kitchen, one is in the lounge, and two are by the dining area.

There's an air of quality and style about the Discovery's furniture and fabrics. Smart white top locker doors have concealed catches, and are shaped to provide recesses instead of handles. Lighting runs above the top lockers.

The grey kitchen cabinets and tile-effect floor covering look superbly smart. And the plain grey upholstery fabric, edged with blue, is super-modern and very appealing.

Best Caravan for Couples

WINNER Elddis Affinity 520

Elddis has launched two new two-berth models for 2025. These are the Avanté 520 and Affinity 520. They have the same layout – and both have the largest shower rooms in the entire Elddis range.

That makes them pretty special – and that's why both models were considered for the award that recognises caravans that are tailor-made for couples; wash-time luxury is important.

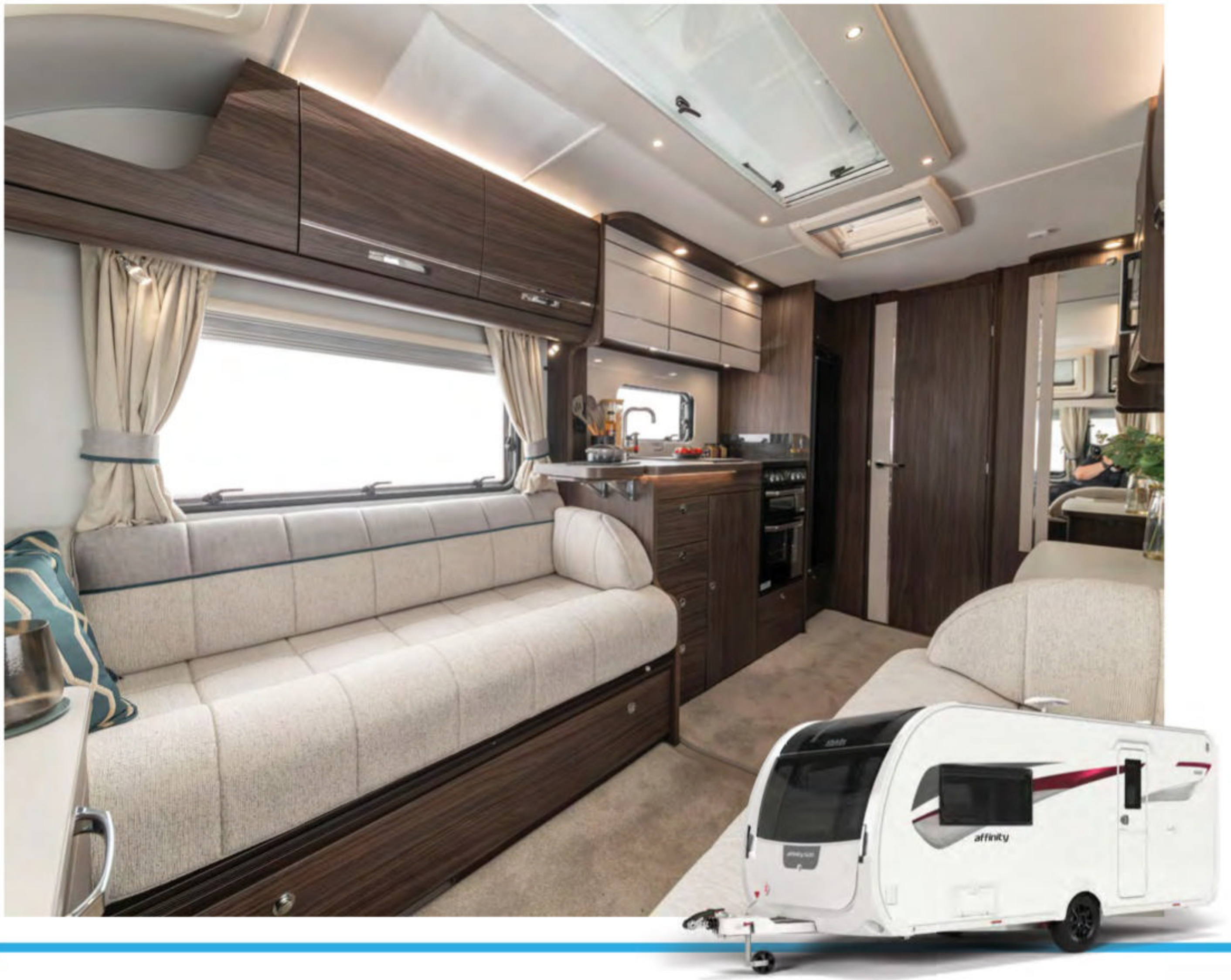
Which of these would the judges choose? It was a close call. The Affinity version of this layout has, of course, a higher spec than its Avanté cousin – which is why it edged ahead; our judges felt it had greater appeal.

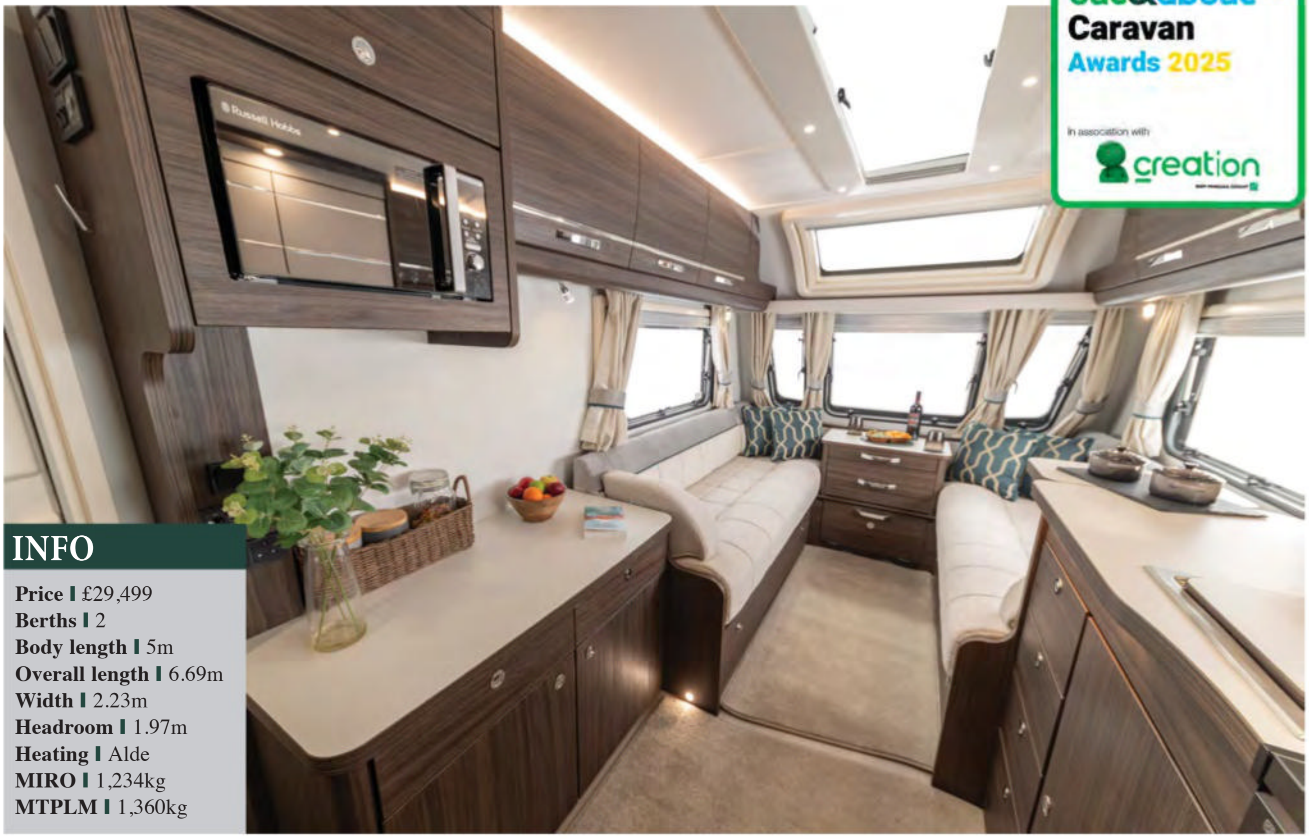
The Affinity 520 has shower room luxury in spades. That's not just in terms of its spaciousness.

It has two floor-level spotlights. Lighting runs along both sides of the mirror, and also above the wall cabinet. A generously sized wardrobe with two drawers integrated into it ensures the box marked "good storage" gets a firm tick.

The Affinity 520, though, didn't win the title just because it has a luxurious and large shower room. There are lots of things that impressed the judges in the kitchen – especially the amount of surface space.

There's a good stretch of surface forward of the large, rectangular sink, and with an extension to hinge up when you need more space. Opposite, the sideboard-dresser provides nearly a metre of surface width. This unit houses the microwave (which is at a height suitable for people of most





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INFO

Price | £29,499
Berths | 2
Body length | 5m
Overall length | 6.69m
Width | 2.23m
Headroom | 1.97m
Heating | Alde
MIRO | 1,234kg
MTPLM | 1,360kg

statures), and also provides a double-doored cabinet with drawers above it.

Storage in the main kitchen area consists of a full-height cabinet plus three drawers with a drop-down-doored locker beneath it.

In addition to the large amount of wardrobe storage, there are five lockers that could be used for clothes above the lounge, and the front central cabinet has a drawer within it and a locker below.

So, with a luxuriously spacious shower room, great storage, and a beautifully crafted interior design scheme that teams dark woodwork with cream upholstery, the Affinity won the judges' marks and hearts. They love the bright emerald green accent colour, for the four cushions, curtain tie-back edges – and, on the backrests, a fine band that separates the cream fabric from pale grey on the upper sectors. It all adds up to super-appealing styling that played a significant part in leading to the Affinity 520's award status.

Affinitys have Alde heating, and the Alde Load Monitor is there to prevent you from tripping out the electricity supply to your pitch (it switches off the heating when you use the microwave, for instance).

out&about LIVE

www.outandaboutlive.co.uk

Caravan Dealer of the Year

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WINNER
Highbridge Caravan Centre

Voted by you, the readers

With a vast range of new and used caravans at two branches, Highbridge Caravan Centre is one of the largest outdoor leisure retailers in the country.

Highbridge's website tells us that it's "a family business that is worth travelling miles for" – and people do, in quantity. Customer service is a strong focus at Highbridge, resulting in much repeat business. Established in 1965, Highbridge is now in its 60th year. Caravans from manufacturers including Coachman, Elddis, Bailey, Swift, Eriba, Buccaneer and Adria are stocked.

At the main branch at Highbridge, Somerset, there's an indoor awnings showroom and a large accessory store; Highbridge is truly a one-stop shop for all things related to caravans. Awning brands stocked here include Dorema, Ventura, Isabella, Dometic, Vango, Outdoor Revolution and Telta.

Every type of accessory you could imagine is here, including a large range of outdoor and awning chairs, tables for eating and tables for coffee, and folding cupboards for awnings.

Avtex televisions are stocked, together with soundbars and digital amplifiers. Tableware, cooking utensils, kettles, toasters, handheld vacuum cleaners – it's all here and more besides.

The vast selection of used caravans offers tourers from all budgets, from an incredible £3,000, upwards to nearly new models.

The company's head office is at Highbridge in Somerset and there's also a branch at Teigngrace, Newton Abbot in Devon.

HIGHBRIDGE CARAVANS

Address | A38 Bristol Road, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4EX
Telephone | 01278 782725
Website | highbridgecaravans.co.uk

Highly Commended
Kimberley The Caravan and Motorhome People

This dealership has branches at Nottingham and Darlington. Kimberley Nottingham is at Kimberley, just outside of Nottingham. Kimberley Darlington is at Burtree Gate, close to Darlington. It's among the largest caravan dealerships in the northeast and East Midlands. New caravans include ranges from Swift, Adria, Xplore and Coachman.

It was founded in the 1970s by Michael Lowe who rented a small plot of land from a car dealership, on the existing Kimberley Nottingham site. When the car dealership came up for sale in 1985, Michael bought it – and the rest is history. Michael's son, Chris, joined him in business and expansion followed. Both branches have large accessory showrooms.

Caravan of the Year

WINNER Sprite Quattro MB

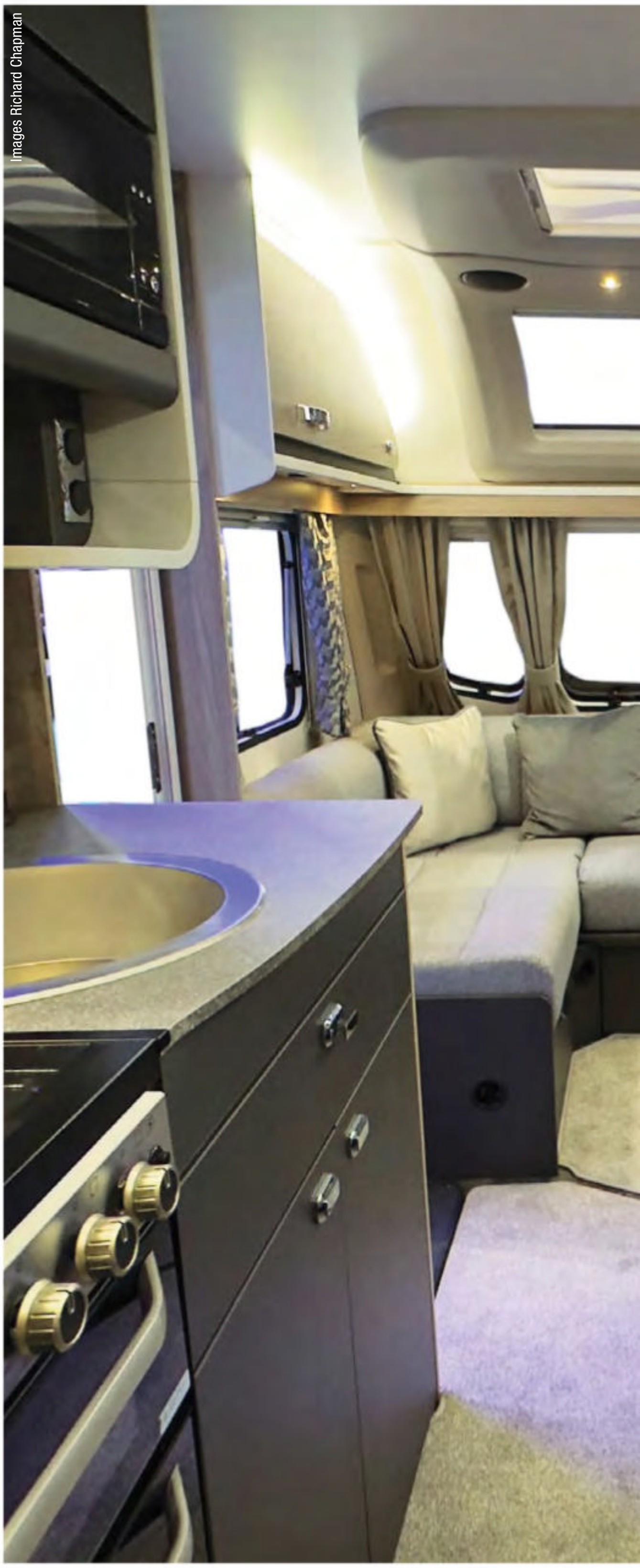
For a caravan to be awarded the supreme title of Caravan of the Year it has to be a true leader in the market. A model that's destined to be an outstanding success in terms of sales – and, moreover, a model that demonstrates the caravan manufacturers serving Britain to be forward thinking and innovative. The judges picked the Sprite Quattro MB for its exceptionally versatile family layout, for its good-value price tag of £28,495 that will be perceived by many buyers as being affordable – and because, in this spacious, twin-axle tourer, you get a lot of caravan for your money.

"A caravan that's suitable for children from babies right up to teenagers, with affordability as a keynote, and with spaciousness at its heart... It's a big ask. The MB is innovative in bedroom layout, and with the kitchen efficiency and showering convenience attributes that will win family buyers over. The MB makes the statement that big caravans don't always have big prices."
Val Chapman, Awards judge

"This model is simply perfect for a family. The flexibility of its layout, with dual living and dining areas, a large well-equipped kitchen, a full-sized shower room and separate washroom and that private bedroom, mean this tourer has a huge appeal to those many buyers looking for practicality without sacrificing luxury and affordability. And affordability is one of this Sprite Quattro MB's major highlights, as this six-berth family caravan costs well under £30,000, which, at a time when many families are looking for true value for money, is a huge benefit."
Daniel Attwood, Awards judge

"With its spacious layout and advanced features, the Sprite Quattro MB stands out as a top choice for family caravanning. Equipped with a 100W solar panel, and an external barbecue point, it's designed for both comfort and functionality. This caravan brings together everything needed for enjoyable, memorable trips, providing the perfect set-up for families to make the most of their time together. At under £30,000, it offers true value for money, allowing families to enjoy a luxury caravan at a fair price. "
Macaulay Nichol, Awards judge

Images Richard Chapman



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SWIFT
SPRITE

QUESTIONS & answers

Our caravan expert, Lee Davey, answers your questions

Is fresh water fresh?

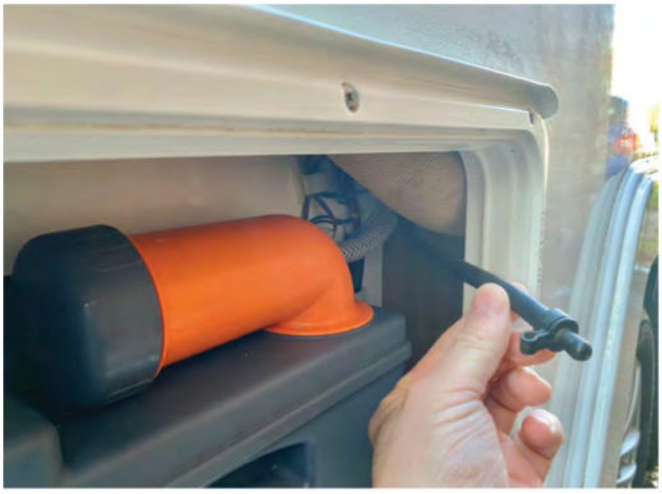
Q When staying at a campsite recently, our neighbour says he never brushes his teeth or drinks from the taps. As we brush our teeth and drink from the taps, should we be doing so?

A This topic will divide the readership! Personally, we have always cleaned our teeth and drunk water from the taps. However, I am particular about ensuring our water system is incredibly clean, treating it with Puriclean several times throughout the year.

If you have any doubts about the cleanliness of your Aquaroll, tank, or pipes, stick to bottled water until they are properly cleaned.

puriclean
CLEANS AND PURIFIES STORED WATER SYSTEMS
Tanks - Containers - Pipes

Flushed with success



Q Other than flushing the toilet, is there another way to empty the toilet flush tank?

A There is, indeed. Most caravan toilets have a drain hose inside the exterior door frame. To find the hose, open the door and look just inside the frame, usually at the top or the side. It's either black or clear in colour and is held in place with a plastic clip. Once found, unclip the hose and remove the stopper. Once the toilet has drained and the stopper and hose are back in place, any remaining flush liquid can be removed by flushing.

Blinds – up or down?

Q Should I pull the blinds down or leave them up when I put my caravan into storage for extended periods?

A Leaving the blinds down for extended periods can weaken the springs on spring-cassette blinds. If you have curtains, and would like to screen the interior of your caravan, drawing them works better than pulling the binds down.

ASK THE EXPERTS... Email your tech questions and pictures to caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk or, if you prefer to post, write to Questions & Answers, *Caravan* Magazine, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

Drain-down check

Q If there's a cold snap and I check the drain valve in my caravan, should it be pointing up or down? I emptied the water during our last trip, and I can't remember which position is open and which is closed!

A A handy reminder is that water flows whichever way the drain valve points. If the valve is vertical, water will drain from the vertical drain-pipe. If it is horizontal, it will flow to the boiler.

Propane question

Q I have two empty propane Calor Lite bottles, and I would like refills. I'm struggling to find replacement bottles. What are my options?

A Calor discontinued the Lite bottles, although, strangely, I did see a few full bottles at a campsite not long ago. Calor Lite bottles are like hen's teeth, although a straightforward swap with a regular Calor propane bottle should be possible. This is what I did with my own Lite bottles.

If your gas locker is at the front of your caravan, it's worth checking the noseweight after fitment, because the regular bottles are heavier.

CALOR
Lite
CALL 0800 662 663 FOR GAS DE
www.calorlite.co.uk

Should seating be kept inside a house?

Q If I leave my caravan for a month or more, especially if it's cold, should I bring the seating cushions into the house, or is it OK to leave them in the caravan?

A This is primarily a personal choice. I leave our cushions in the caravan but pull them an inch or so from the wall to ensure maximum airflow. If it's likely to be some time before our next trip, I give them a thorough clean, as crumbs or spillages can attract mould or rodents. Periodic checks are wise, too.

Strong wind security

Q The recent strong winds have made me reconsider how I park my caravan. I tend to lower the corner steadies and leave the handbrake off, although I will put it on if strong winds are forecast. Is there anything else you would recommend?

A My new favourite gadget is the Milenco Jockey Pocket, a small, dished plastic puck that holds the bottom of the jockey wheel. Like you, I also leave the handbrake off unless windy conditions are forecast, and the Jockey Pocket helps ensure things stay where they should.

GOT A QUERY? Our expert team is happy to answer your questions, whether they relate to touring or towing, DIY or disasters! Whatever it is that's been causing you bother, we are on hand to help!

FOLLOW Find Lee Davey here:
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NEWARK
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NORFOLK
18-20 JULY 2025

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW
MALVERN
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RETROFESTIVAL
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Safe and secure

Ensuring your caravan's safety during downtime is crucial. Here are a few expert tips for secure storage and peace of mind

UNICORN
ACE

Alan Morris iStockphoto

Keeping your caravan on your home premises is regarded as the most convenient solution to storage. It's close to your house for cleaning, packing and unpacking – and it's right there where you need it when you're setting off on holiday. But storing a caravan in your garden is far from ideal for many caravan owners. Your garden may not be large enough; access roads may be too narrow – and there's another consideration. That's house security.

If your caravan can be seen from the road, its absence when you are away signifies that the house may not be occupied. Solution: a storage arrangement that's ideal for security in terms of both your house and your caravan.

Caravan storage sites come in all shapes and sizes. The best – and most secure – have a security rating. Our advice will lead you to selecting the best storage solution for you…

All things considered, paying a relatively modest fee to store a caravan safely is a sensible option. Using a storage facility can reduce the risks of caravan theft.

A company that specialises in caravan insurance, Shield Total Insurance, says, "Our claims prove that caravans are much more vulnerable to theft when they're kept at home. We suspect that many are stolen by organised gangs, so it's always best to keep your caravan out of sight if you can."

With all this in mind, if you haven't considered the benefit of using a storage facility, it might be wise to do so.

Overleaf are some of the key factors you will want to think about.

STORE-AND-STAY

Some sites offer a facility that enables you to store your caravan in a compound on the site, and then have it towed to a pitch when you stay at that site. It's an excellent arrangement if you have a favourite site. Driving solo to the site is more economical than towing. Your caravan is ready for you on a pitch when you arrive. And, of course, when you want to take your caravan elsewhere, you can do so, just like using any other storage facility.

»

Storage site checklist

Border Storage

CaSSOA

Elmstone Storage Caravan Storage

CaSSOA

Guardian Secure Storage

CaSSOA

✓ LOCATION

Proximity to your home is not the only aspect of the site's location you should consider. The best sites are situated discreetly 'out of the way', avoiding main roads and passing traffic. If your caravan isn't visible, the chances are that potential thieves won't even know it's there.

✓ SECURE FENCING

Shabby or damaged fencing around a caravan storage site should be a concern. Tall (2.4m high), metal palisade fencing is the preferred option.

✓ CHECK SPACING BETWEEN THE FENCE AND CARAVAN

Caravan storage plots backed right up to the fence should be avoided if possible. This practice will obscure CCTV, offering thieves an opportunity to target your caravan out of sight. A good storage site will have a perimeter track to keep extra distance between the fence and its pitches.

✓ CHECK FOR TREES SURROUNDING THE FENCE

Tall trees near the perimeter fence offer a potential opportunity for thieves, who can use them to climb over any fencing. The lack of potential access points can help to reduce the risk of theft.

✓ MOTION-ACTIVATED LIGHTING

Good lighting goes without saying, but leaving floodlights on all the time is not the answer. People don't notice when a light is left on permanently, but if the lights are off and then activated by motion, site owners know straight away that something is amiss and can investigate the cause. It is also more likely to scare off prospective thieves.

✓ CCTV

Enhanced CCTV serves two purposes – one proactive and one reactive. Firstly, it allows the site owners to monitor the facility to make sure all is well. Secondly, if the worst happens, CCTV will provide the police with clear and crisp imagery of the offenders, and will be compelling evidence to insurance companies should you need to make a claim.

✓ SET SPACING REQUIREMENTS

Keeping a safe distance between pitches serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it enables you to get the caravan in and out with ease, rather than spending your holiday time slowly manoeuvring it. The chances of a collision occurring are then minimised. It also helps in case a fire should start, as it will reduce the risk of it spreading to neighbouring caravans.

Check for secure fencing

raymond orton/shutterstock

Check for CCTV

Pixabay

FINDING A SECURE STORAGE SITE

How do you find a secure storage site and how do you know if it's truly secure? The first step is to visit CaSSOA (**W** **cassoa.co.uk**).

This is the Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association and its aim is 'to reduce caravan theft by promoting the highest levels of security on caravan storage sites'. The organisation oversees several hundred secure storage sites across the UK. All CaSSOA sites have to meet certain minimum levels of security and are classified according to the level of protection that they provide.

Bronze accreditation is the entry-level award and calls for perimeter protection and lockable gates. To gain Silver accreditation, a site must include additional features such as CCTV and monitored entry and exit of the site.

Gold accredited sites have features including electronic access systems, number plate recognition and alarm systems. Platinum accreditation is the highest award and requires the adoption of a comprehensive range of security measures. Over 50% of CaSSOA sites have Gold accreditation. Each site is resurveyed every five years to ensure that standards are maintained.

Before you commit to using a storage site facility, you should visit the site, and take a good look around and consider the points here.

Fire extinguishers should be present throughout

moo photograph/shutterstock

Norsted Manor Caravan Storage Site

CaSSOA

✓ STAFF ON SITE

Having CCTV installed, but no staff around to watch it, is counterproductive. When you visit a storage site, enquire as to whether the owners, or security personnel, are permanently on site. This is especially important after dark, when most theft and damage occurs.

✓ INDOOR OR OUTDOOR

Some storage facilities offer indoor storage. This is by far the best option, but may not be available in a location that is close enough to your home.

✓ ELECTRONIC TAG SYSTEM

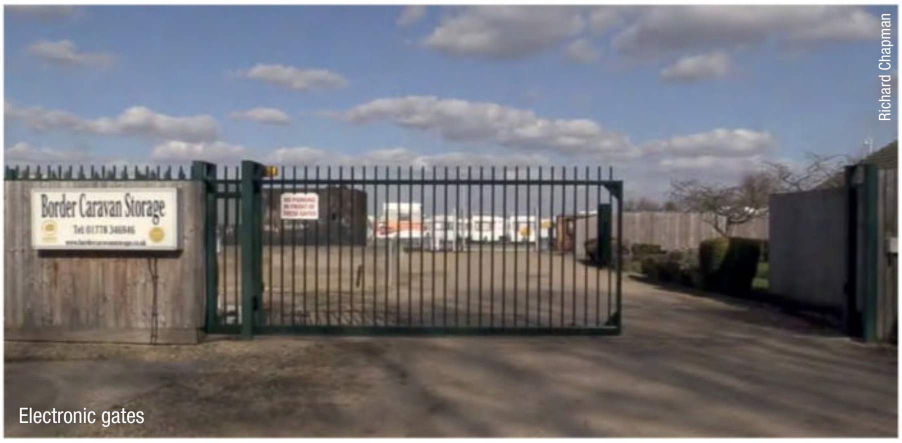
Rather than relying on a handwritten system of who is booked in/out, an electronic tag system keeps records instantly updated. This enables the site owners to keep track of activity; when a certain person entered or left a site and also how many caravans are currently on site at any one time.

✓ LINKS TO POLICE STATIONS

Should the worst happen, check the storage site has a direct link to the local police station. This enables officers to respond more quickly, increasing the chances of recovering your caravan should it be taken from the storage facility.

✓ AIRLOCK GATES

While a robust entrance gate is a must, the presence of 'airlock' gates is far more desirable. The caravan enters via the first gate, which should close before the second gate is opened. This creates a secure space between the outside of the storage site and the interior where caravans are pitched.



Electronic gates

Richard Chapman

✓ FIRE-PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

Not all risks come from thieves and vandals and accidents can happen. If a fire occurs, there should be easily accessible equipment not only to raise the alarm, but to combat the fire as well. Hand-cranked alarm bells and fire extinguishers should be present throughout a storage site.

AND THE COST?

It stands to reason that the sites with a high level of security, or indoor areas, charge more. Costs also vary by region – it costs more to store in the London areas, for example, than in rural regions. We found examples of sites charging £510 a year for outdoor storage, £710 for undercover storage, £300 for storage on grass, £420 for a hardstanding storage plot, and £832 for single-axle caravans and £975 for twin-axle caravans. Some prices are based on the length of the caravan. CaSSOA's website tells us that the average storage cost for a single-axle caravan is around £350. So, seek out the best storage location for your convenience, investigate levels of security – and find one that suits your budget as well as the other criteria.

FOR MORE INFO

Go to **W** **cassoa.co.uk** for more details and to find approved storage sites near you

CaSSOA
THE CARAVAN STORAGE SITE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Light fantastic!

Upgrading the lighting inside your caravan can transform the ambience of your leisure environment

Words & photography: Lee Davey

Caravanning offers a unique blend of adventure and comfort, allowing you to explore the great outdoors without sacrificing home comforts – and upgrading your caravan's lighting can change the look and feel of the environment.

More, and brighter, lighting can transform the interior. For example, putting brighter lights over or near to the kitchen can make a huge difference when you are cooking after dark – and, at this time of the year, that's exactly when you are going to be preparing dinner. Lounging ambience can be vastly improved by what is sometimes termed 'mood' lighting in interior design parlance. In other words, enhancing your evening relaxing zone.

Whether you're an experienced caravanner or new to the scene, having improved lighting may be more important than you think. It's safe to say that most new caravans have first-rate lighting but, if you've bought a used caravan, you may find there's room for improvement.

TYPES OF CARAVAN LIGHTS

LED lights are popular in caravans due to their energy efficiency and long lifespan. They consume less power and so are ideal for caravanners who choose pitches without an electric hook-up. LEDs are available in various forms, including caravan ceiling lights, spotlights, reading lights, strip lights, or downlights. They are flexible in both design and placement. Many retailers who specialise in caravan accessories sell LED bulbs that directly replace halogen bulbs.

Halogen lights were at one time a firm favourite in caravans, but their appetite for power led to their demise. They did provide a warm, inviting glow that many found appealing, but these lights could eat into a leisure battery. The UK Government introduced a bill in 2021 aimed at removing halogen bulbs from our shelves.

They are, however, still available from several retailers, but it's anyone's guess if they will continue to be available once current stocks have been exhausted. Fitting direct LED replacements is the way forward, as they are relatively cheap and consume far less power.

I haven't seen a fluorescent light for some time, but they were fitted to numerous caravan models in years past. Although they can be more energy efficient than some bulb types, they aren't as efficient as LEDs. LED strips are a readily available alternative to fluorescent lighting.

Puck lights offer a compact solution for hard-to-light areas. These small lights are perfect for installing under cabinets or in tight spaces, providing focused light where it's needed without taking up much room. Many are battery-powered or rechargeable and can be fixed with double-sided tape.

CARAVAN AWNING LIGHTS

Awning lights are fitted to the nearside of the caravan, often above the door, although some are centrally located. Even when you're not using an awning, these are an invaluable light source when returning to the caravan after dark. Some manufacturers also fit exterior lighting to the offside, making filling water containers easier after dark.

A reading light fitted with an LED

A simple table lamp can create a cosy look

Awning lights are not just useful when you are using an awning

The ease of bulb replacement depends on the type of caravan awning light fitted. If you have a recently manufactured caravan with LED lighting, you'll likely need to replace the entire light unit. Thankfully, these are readily available from caravan dealers or accessory shops. If you own a Bailey caravan, they are available from **W primaleisure.com**

The correct light can be found by selecting your make and model from the drop-down box or inputting your caravan's VIN number.

If you have an awning light that's fitted with a traditional bulb, you can likely replace the bulb itself. To remove the lens, look for small indents or tabs around the edge and gently pry the unit free with a screwdriver. Be careful; the lens may be brittle from years spent in the sunlight. With the bulb replaced, the lens should clip back into place.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON CARAVAN LIGHTING ISSUES

A poor connection or a faulty bulb often cause flickering lights. Start by checking the bulb. If the bulb filament appears intact, check the connections. If the problem

Backlighting around a mirror looks lovely

Spotlights with USB ports - a convenient idea

persists, you may need to replace the bulb.

Dim lights or flashing LED lights usually indicate a low battery. Check your battery level first, as this is a common culprit.

If your lights are unresponsive, the issue could indicate no power, a blown fuse, or a tripped switch within the consumer unit. Check the fusebox and consumer unit, replacing the fuse or pushing the RCD switch upwards as required.

If your bulbs' lifespan is particularly short, it might be due to voltage fluctuations or poor-quality bulbs. Investing in high-quality bulbs from a caravan specialist is money well spent.

UPGRADING CARAVAN LIGHTS

Selecting the best lighting for your caravan involves more than just picking the brightest bulb. It's about understanding your needs and how different lights can meet them.

The colour temperature of your lights can affect the mood and functionality of your space. Warm white lights create a cosy atmosphere; cool white lights are better for task-oriented areas.

Caravan manufacturers frequently use LED strips. The lights are hidden from view underneath a cupboard, seating area, worktop, or pelmet. Strips usually offer cool or warm lighting, with some able to switch between the two, enabling the lighting to match the mood or lighting conditions.

To fit a self-adhesive lighting strip:

- Clean the area thoroughly
- Some LED strips can be cut to length. Only cut at the area shown
- Wiring connections are made at the LED by solder or specialist clips. Only use the correct gauge/size of wire
- Peel the backing from the LED strip and press firmly into place
- If you have 12V LEDs, you can wire them into a switched 12V circuit. This work should only be carried out by an authorised technician

For convenience, smart bulbs can be controlled via a remote control or smartphone app. They are a great idea if you like to switch off or dim a particular area when in bed or watching television.

COLOURED INTERIOR LIGHTS

Coloured lights can create a unique atmosphere inside your caravan. Whether hosting a gathering or enjoying a quiet night relaxing, the right colours can set the tone. Dimmable options give you control over mood and the lighting intensity, allowing you to adjust the brightness to suit your needs.

Intelligent lighting systems allow you to customise and change colours easily. With the touch of a button or a voice command, you can switch between colours.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR CARAVAN'S INTERIOR LIGHTS

Standard caravan bulbs, such as the popular G4, are simple to replace. Two pins on the bulb push into the holder, so gently pull the old bulb to remove. Simply push the new bulb into place.

The main benefit of modern lighting is enhanced energy efficiency. Modern LED lights consume less power, which is great for caravanners who wish to stay at campsites that do not offer electric hook-up points. LEDs are especially popular with people who attend rallies or book Certificated Location sites. From a visual standpoint, modern lighting can update your caravan's interior appearance. Using LED strips can transform your interior living space, giving it a contemporary look while being incredibly practical. ■

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NEW GEAR

Two sleeping bags and a muiltipurpose cooking system

Royal Leisure Grey Stripe Sleeping Bag

A soft, cosy sleeping bag designed for three-season camping, the Grey Stripe Sleeping Bag from Royal Leisure is double-layered and filled with 110g/m of padding, so you are unlikely to need the caravan heating on unless it's really cold! This single sleeping bag packs away into a compact bag, providing warmth and comfort without taking up excess space.

It's 2.03m long and 92cm wide.

PRICE £49 W bit.ly/royalgrey

Cozy Double Sleeping Bag

If you'd rather use a double sleeping bag than a duvet, we have one for you; super-convenient if you make up a bed in the lounge of your caravan.

Made from plush quilted cotton flannel, with Coletherm® insulation layered within, the Cozy Double Sleeping Bag from Coleman is a premium option. Featuring a full left-side zip and quarter-length right-side zip, both equipped with Thermolock zipper baffles, this sleeping bag is designed to retain heat in colder conditions (you may not need to keep the caravan heating on at night), with an anti-odour treatment designed to guard against 99% of odour-forming bacteria.

It's 2.35m long and 1.5m wide. It has a cosy cotton flannel lining for greater comfort and warmth, and has a removable hood.

PRICE £70 W bit.ly/colecozy

Campingaz Party Grill 400 CV

The Campingaz Party Grill 400 CV is a portable, gas-powered 2,000W multipurpose camping grill. It has its own carry bag and all the necessary attachments to allow you to grill, boil, fry, cook a pizza and even stir fry – all you need is a CV300 or CV470 screw-in gas canister and a pot and/or kettle).
It was tested by our Head of Content, Daniel Attwood, over the summer of 2024. This is what he had to say: "What a brilliant piece of kit. In fact, this Party Grill – the name is a bit of a misnomer as it is more than just a grill and it will be used far more often than just the occasional party – does more than we expected from it.

"Rather than taking a twin-burner grill and hob as we normally do, we only took this on our trips and festivals. We're a family of four so it was quite a risk to head off with this as our only cooking system.

"However, it not only coped with simple tasks like boiling the kettle, cooking a pasta dish, grilling sausages, bacon, eggs, etc, for breakfast, but also for larger meals like a stir fry (by using the lid as a wok). It can even cook a pizza.

"Get it out of the box and pack it, the legs and a gas canister or two into the included carry bag and you're ready to go.

"It's not the lightest, at just shy of 5kg without the gas canisters, but it is reasonably compact when its legs have been removed – they just twist off.

"On site, just screw back in the three legs, and find a level surface. If it is windy, pour water into the base to stabilise it.

"Then select which surface you prefer to cook on, use the piezo gas lighter and get cooking. The six-minute boil time on full flame is impressive but what impressed us more was how quick the griddle surface heated up and how even the heat was. Two eggs, six veggie sausages and four vegan bacon rashers were all on there at once and cooked to perfection at the same time.

"If you want to stir fry, just flip the lid and use that, while, if you want to boil water, use a pot or kettle on the grill top.

"The cooking waste drips into the same base as the water that is used to stabilise it, so when it comes to cleaning up, it is a cinch. Better still, the non-stick griddle requires minimal cleaning."

PRICE £117.14 W bit.ly/campingazpg ■

NEWS & VIEWS

Let us entertain you!

Get ready for a year filled with music, dancing, and unforgettable nights under the stars; the 2025 Warners Shows season promises to be the most exciting yet.

We've got five shows and two thrilling festivals, and at each, caravanners can look forward to three-plus nights of live entertainment. Although not all of the shows are directly titled as caravan events, pitches are suitable for caravans.

There will be headline acts, brilliant live performances across a range of genres, and a welcoming community atmosphere. Check out the line-up.

2025 SHOWS

THE NORFOLK MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW, 18-20 JULY

Theme: Out & About Live Summer Party

The Norfolk Show becomes the official Out & About Live Summer Party. Expect an eclectic mix of music, comedy, and family-friendly fun. Live performances day and night, and each evening kicks off with a silent disco in the Big Top tent.

● Headliners are *Wild Boys* – the ultimate 80s party band; *Madonna Tribute* – hits from the Queen of Pop, and Vanessa – a powerhouse vocalist bringing soulful sounds to the party.

● Also starring: *Ska Britania, Rats in the Kitchen* (UB40 tribute), T*he Very Beautiful South, Chasing Mumford*, and *Queen & Country*, plus comedy sets and silent discos

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW, 15-17 AUGUST

Theme: Country music takeover

If you love country music, this is the one for you. Three dedicated music stages will be filled with toe-tapping, boot-stomping live performances. Caravanners can also enjoy free line dancing sessions with *Chay's Stompers* every day.

● Headliners are *Luke Combes UK* – a tribute to one of the biggest names in modern country music, and *The Shania Twain Story* – the music of one of country's most celebrated stars.

THE SOUTH WEST MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW, 5-7 SEPTEMBER

Theme: Guitar legends and rock icons

For rock enthusiasts, the South West show is a chance to hear legendary guitar anthems performed live on stage. Expect electric performances from some of the finest tribute acts in the business.

● Headliners are Katrina (formerly of *Katrina & The Waves*) – festival vibes from the voice behind "Walking on Sunshine", and *The Total Who Show* – Experience the raw power of The Who's most iconic songs.

● Also starring: *Mercury*, the ultimate Queen tribute, and *The Police Force*, a faithful tribute to Sting and *The Police*.

THE MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW SEASON FINALE, 19-21 SEPTEMBER

Theme: End-of-Season Party

The grand finale of the Warners Shows season is a lively celebration of music and community spirit. This is a great chance to party with friends. You can expect two stages packed with incredible live entertainment.

● Headliners are *Showaddywaddy* – get ready for a throwback with these 1970s rock 'n' roll legends; Joe Pasquale – the nation's favourite funnyman, and Badness – a tribute to the kings of ska, Madness.

● Also starring: *The Amazing Blues Brothers, Beardsmith, Abba Fever, Denotones* and *Union Gap*

THE MALVERN CARAVAN & MOTORHOME SHOW, 3-5 OCTOBER

Theme: Relaxed autumn break

The Malvern Show has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, making it the perfect autumn break. But that doesn't mean the entertainment is any less exciting!

● Headliners are *The Swing Commanders* – swing, jazz, and jive music from a high-energy live band, and Jason Dale as Elvis – the King of Rock 'n' Roll is back!

● Also starring: *That 80's Rock Show, The Moondogs*, and *Straight Circles*

FESTIVALS

CAMPERVAN CAMPOUT, 2-4 MAY

Theme: Family-friendly festival

The Campervan Campout Festival returns to West Sussex bigger than ever, with music all day, every day on the outdoor main stage. With a relaxed, family-friendly vibe, it's the perfect way to kick off festival season.

● Headliner is Sara Cox – a 'Power Wower' DJ set that will keep you on your feet.

● Also starring: T*he Houndogs, Ultra 90s vs 2000s, Noel Boland & Salt Creek, Pyrobeats,*

Imposter Syndrome, Levi Roots, plus even more acts yet to be announced.

RETRO FESTIVAL, 8-10 AUGUST

Theme: Rock 'n' roll, Northern soul and swing

Step back in time at Retro Festival, a celebration of all things vintage. Three stages each offer a different style of retro music, so whether you love to jive, swing, or lose yourself in Northern Soul, this is the festival for you.

● Stages are The Black Hangar – Rock 'n' roll, jive, and rockabilly classics; The Ricky Tick Stage – Northern Soul dancefloor hits, and The Spitfire Stage –swing sounds from the golden era.

BOOK EARLY!

Warners Shows offer four nights of live entertainment included with your camping pitch at traditional shows.

For those looking for something extra, headline show tickets can be purchased for just £20 per person if you'd like to see one of the big-name headline acts. For those who prefer to stick with the included entertainment, there is always a free alternative available.

At the Campervan Campout and Retro Festival, all live entertainment is included with your festival ticket, so you can enjoy every headline act at no extra cost.

● **For more details and to book your pitch, visit outandaboutlive.co.uk/shows**

Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show returns to NEC in February 2025

The Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show returns to Birmingham's NEC from 18 to 23 February, 2025. Spanning five halls, it's a huge event for caravans, motorhomes, campervans, tents, and camping gear.

This February, the show will host over 420 exhibitors, featuring more than 700 units from UK and European brands. Returning exhibitors, including Elddis, Buccaneer, Xplore, Coachman, Bailey and Swift will reveal their latest models.

Interactive highlights include free towing lessons with Subaru.

In the Inspiration Theatre, expert speakers will share travel ideas, from scenic road trips in Scotland to breathtaking journeys through Norway and Portugal.

Visitors can also gain practical advice on caravan ownership, pet travel, and security at the Advice Hub. For water lovers, the indoor Watersports Pool offers kayaking and paddleboarding.

Karen Dodd, Marketing Director of NCC Events, says, "Whether you're a seasoned camper or curious about outdoor holidays, this event has something for everyone.

"It's the perfect place to explore the latest models, gear, and destinations all in one day."

Tickets are on sale, including parking, with free entry for children under 16. Prices rise closer to the event, so early booking is recommended.

● **For more details and updates W ccmshow.co.uk**

Caravan and Motorhome Club Contact Centre wins six awards at UKCCF 2024

The Caravan and Motorhome Club's Contact Centre took home six awards at the UK Contact Centre Forum (UKCCF) Awards 2024, celebrating excellence in customer service. Competing against a record 1,368 nominations, the Contact Centre's achievements were recognised in the following categories:

- Best Newcomer of the Year (Gold)
- Outsourcing Partnership of the Year (Gold)
- Support Team of the Year (Silver)
- Complaints Team of the Year (Bronze)
- Contact Centre Workplace of the Year (Silver)
- Best Health & Wellbeing Programme of the Year (Bronze)

Additionally, the Contact Centre received a highly commended in Contact Centre of the Year and was shortlisted for Manager of the Year.

Harvey Alexander, Director of Marketing and Membership Services, commended the team: "Winning these awards highlights the crucial role our Contact Centre team plays in delivering excellent service to our members. Every team member should feel proud of this achievement."

The Caravan and Motorhome Club's Contact Centre team handles product promotion, member enquiries, and complaint resolution, backed by thorough training to maintain high service standards.

● **For more details, visit W camc.com**

FINALISTS AND WINNERS!

»

The 2025 Caravan, Motorhome, and Holiday Home Trade Show at Harrogate

Fox Leisure

For a third consecutive year, HERCMA's Caravan, Motorhome, and Holiday Home Trade Show will take place at the Great Yorkshire Showground in Harrogate, offering previews of the latest models.

This year, the trade event will run from Monday 8 September to Wednesday 10 September, allowing industry professionals a first look at new models before the show opens to the public. The public days will follow from Friday 12 September to Sunday 14 September.

HERCMA Managing Agent, Heather Parry, says the new schedule aims to support the industry's annual cycle. "The new arrangement will enable us to launch the new models to the industry and the press first, before the public view them."

The trade show will feature new models and essential suppliers, providing a detailed look at developments for the upcoming season.

North Norfolk's Holkham Estate acquires six caravan parks

The Holkham Estate has acquired its sixth caravan park, plus a caravan distribution sales business from McDonnell Caravans.

The estate, which is owned by the 8th Earl of Leicester, Thomas Coke, has acquired the caravan parks in Snettisham, Heacham, Thornham (two), Holme-next-the-Sea and Brancaster, as well as the McDonnell Caravans' head office in Gayton.

The newly acquired business will form part of the estate's existing Holkham Holiday Parks operation.

Melissa Loucas, Partner in Birketts' Real Estate Team, advised the Holkham Estate during the acquisition, with real estate support from Andrew Ridout (Legal Director) and Thomas Maxey (Senior Associate). The corporate aspects of the transaction were led by Ed Savory (Partner) and Simona Gruodyte (Senior Associate).

Following completion of the acquisition, Melissa said, "We've been working with Holkham Estate for over 10 years, supporting the estate on property matters as it grows its portfolio in Norfolk. Holkham's vision is to be the UK's most pioneering and sustainable rural estate, and we are proud to work with the estate in pursuit of that goal."

Luke Tyce, the estate's Finance Director, said, "Partnering with Birketts was really important to us on this acquisition. The firm's strategic guidance and attention to detail were invaluable, providing us with confidence and clarity at every stage.

"Melissa demonstrates exceptional leadership of her very capable team, ensuring we always received the best possible advice and support."

Caravan Guard wins Best Caravan Insurance Provider

Caravan Guard has been awarded Best Caravan Cover Provider at the 2024 Insurance Choice Awards. The company also scooped Best Motorhome Insurance Provider, at a ceremony at London's Banking Hall.

The awards are an annual campaign to find the most trusted insurance firms and this year more than 41,000 consumers left reviews on the Smart Money People website to vote for the best insurance providers. Due to excellent feedback from their customers, Caravan Guard was named the best for both caravan and motorhome insurance.

Jacqueline Dewey, CEO of Smart Money People, said Caravan Guard's double win was "well deserved". Smart Money People customer reviews consistently praise Caravan Guard for its excellent value, highlighting the ease of the straightforward insurance process and the clarity of its communication. The team's commitment to supporting both local and national charities further showcases the company's dedication to the community.

Caravan Guard's Managing Director, Ryan Wilby, said the whole company was extremely proud to have been crowned winners in these two highly competitive categories and to have been finalists for the Treating Customers Fairly and Customer Service Champions. "We're over the moon to have been crowned Best Caravan Cover Provider and to also scoop Best Motorhome Insurance Provider for the third year," he said. "We owe these awards to the loyalty and support of our customers. Their votes, feedback and trust in us inspire us to work hard to deliver brilliant service and great-value insurance cover, so they can enjoy their freedom with confidence. A huge thank you to them for helping us to bring home these awards"

The specialist team is based in Halifax and looks after the insurance needs of more than 120,000 caravan and motorhome owners.

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puzzles to exercise your mind when at home or in the caravan

sudoku

If you are looking for a way to exercise your mind, sudoku is great and will certainly get the cogs turning!

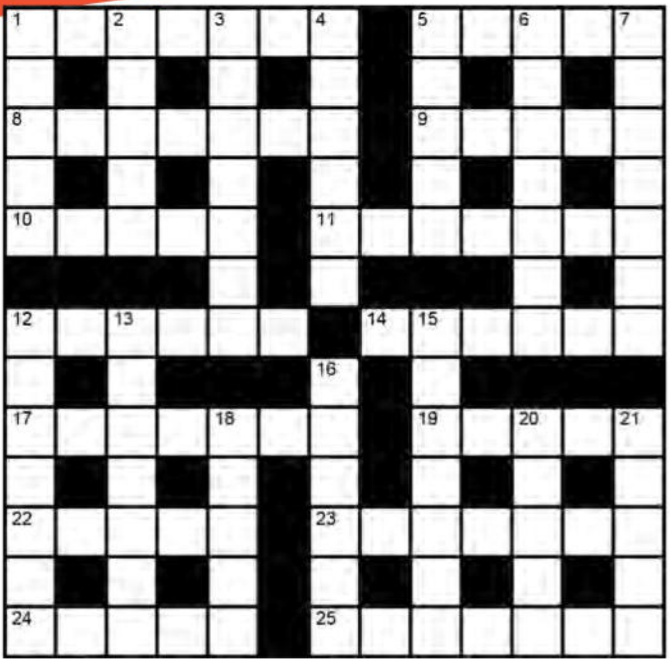
			7			4		
6					2	5		
	8	9	4					3
						1		5
	2				6			
			3					4
		1		9		3		
	9			5	1		8	
		2		4				

just for fun

Find the 18 winter-related terms

A	D	V	E	N	T	F	R	O	S	T
S	K	I	I	N	G	A	S	E	E	Q
C	F	T	W	Z	W	L	V	C	A	B
A	E	C	I	W	C	O	A	T	S	S
R	S	H	N	B	L	O	M	O	N	N
F	T	E	T	G	P	N	Y	L	N	O
B	I	A	E	E	L	B	U	S	L	W
O	V	T	R	D	G	Y	L	B	I	Y
O	E	I	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S
T	F	N	S	H	O	R	T	E	S	T
K	E	G	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D

crossword



ACROSS

- **1** French port city (2,5)
- **5** It may be called (5)
- **8** Winemaker (7)
- **9** Father's brother (5)
- **10** Prop for Hamlet (5)
- **11** Tonsil's neighbour (7)
- **12** Sort of (2,1,3)
- **14** Hooey (6)
- **17** Isotope of hydrogen (7)
- **19** Breakfast sizzler (5)
- **22** Halloween spirit (5)
- **23** Eastwood series (7)
- **24** Change, chemically (5)
- **25** Containing water (7)

DOWN

- **1** Cats have nine of them (5)
- **2** Follower of the eternal religion (5)
- **3** Ice cream flavour (7)
- **4** Cerumen (6)
- **5** Thug (5)
- **6** Reveal (7)
- **7** Feudal estate (7)
- **12** Figure (7)
- **13** Flagstaff setting (7)
- **15** Perfectly straight (7)
- **16** Tarnish (6)
- **18** Coastal feature (5)
- **20** Type of trouser (5)
- **21** Demands (5)

your scribbles

ANSWERS ACROSS: 1 Le Havre, 5 Bluff, 8 Vintner, 9 Uncle, 10 Skull, 11 Adenoid, 12 In a way, 14 Bunkum, 17 Tritium, 19 Bacon, 22 Ghoul, 23 Rawhide, 24 React, 25 Hydrous
DOWN: 1 Lives, 2 Hindu, 3 Vanilla, 4 Earwax, 5 Brute, 6 Uncloak, 7 Fiefdom, 12 Integer, 13 Arizona, 15 Unbowed, 16 Smirch, 18 Inlet, 20 Chino, 21 Needs

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2024 Swift Sprite Compact	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	~~£21,445~~	£19,245
2024 Bailey Discovery D44	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£22,144~~	£19,644
2024 Swift Sprite Alpine 2	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	~~£23,045~~	£20,745
2024 Swift Basecamp 2	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	~~£24,745~~	£22,245
2024 Swift Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£25,245~~	£22,995
2024 Swift Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£25,245~~	£23,245
2024 Swift Fairway 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£26,725~~	£23,995
2024 Bailey Phoenix GT75 762	DEVON	TA	6 Berth	~~£28,144~~	£24,995
2024 Adria Altea 612 DL Tyne	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£29,200~~	£25,995
2024 Swift Sprite Quattro EW	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	~~£27,845~~	£26,045
2024 Bailey Pegasus GT75 Porto	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£29,544~~	£26,544
2024 Swift Sprite Gr Quattro DB	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	~~£30,845~~	£27,495
2024 Bailey Unicorn V Madrid	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£31,844~~	£27,844
2024 Bailey Unicorn V Cabrera	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£32,544~~	£28,995
2024 Coachman Acadia 545	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£31,500~~	£29,495
2024 Adria Adora 612 DL Seine	SOMERSET	SA	5 Berth	~~£34,030~~	£29,995
2024 Adria Adora 623 DP Tiber	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£34,760~~	£29,995
2024 Adria Adora 623 DT Isonzo	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£34,760~~	£29,995
2024 Eriba Touring 320	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£33,520~~	£29,995
2024 Eriba Touring 530	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£33,620~~	£29,995
2024 Swift Challenger SE 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£32,245~~	£29,995
2024 Bailey Unicorn V Pamplona	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	~~£35,144~~	£31,144
2024 Coachman VIP 460	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	~~£33,740~~	£31,995

2024 Elddis Crusader Aurora	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£35,749~~	£31,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Mistral	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£35,749~~	£31,995
2024 Eriba Touring 420	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	~~£34,240~~	£32,495
2024 Eriba Touring 540	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£36,690~~	£32,995
2024 Bailey Alicanto Gr Lisbon	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£37,844~~	£32,995
2024 Eriba Touring 530	DEVON	SA	3 Berth	~~£36,790~~	£32,995
2024 Coachman VIP 565	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£36,440~~	£33,995
2024 Eriba Touring 530 Urban	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£37,540~~	£33,995
2024 Coachman VIP 565	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£36,440~~	£33,995
2024 Eriba Touring 530	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£36,790~~	£34,995
2024 Eriba Touring 542	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£37,570~~	£34,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Borealis	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	~~£40,649~~	£35,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Tempest	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	~~£40,649~~	£35,995
2024 Eriba Touring 630 Silver	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£45,550~~	£35,995
2024 Eriba Touring 642 Silver	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	~~£42,440~~	£35,995
2024 Eriba Touring 642 Silver	DEVON	SA	3 Berth	~~£45,670~~	£35,995
2024 Bailey Alicanto Gr Evora	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	~~£39,644~~	£36,144
2024 Coachman Laser 545 Xtra	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£39,830~~	£36,995
2024 Coachman Laser 575 Xtra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	~~£39,830~~	£36,995
2024 Swift Elegance Gr 760	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£43,745~~	£38,745
2024 Swift Elegance Gr 780	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	~~£43,745~~	£38,745
2024 Elddis Crusader Zephyr	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	~~£42,149~~	£38,995
2024 Swift Elegance Gr 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	~~£47,045~~	£41,745
2024 Coachman Laser Xcel 875	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	~~£46,745~~	£42,995

A Selection of **USED CARAVANS**

www.highbridgecaravans.co.uk

2022 Sprite Quattro FB	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£20,995
2019 Coachman VIP 520	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2023 Swift Basecamp 4	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2018 Swift Conqueror 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2017 Compass Camino 644	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£20,995
2019 Bailey Bolognia Grande	SOMERSET	TA	0 Berth	£20,995
2023 Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2023 Bailey Phoenix Plus 644	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2023 Bailey Phoenix Plus 642	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2022 Sprite Major 4SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major Super 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2021 Adria Adora Seine	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2021 Sprite Quattro FB Super	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£21,995
2023 Compass Casita 550	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2023 Sprite Major 6TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£21,995
2023 Eriba 310 Urban	DEVON	SA	3 Berth	£21,995
2018 Swift Conqueror 645	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£21,995
2020 Sterling Eccles 650	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£22,995
2022 Sprite Quattro Super FB	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£22,995
2021 Bailey Unicorn Cabrera	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£22,995
2024 Sprite Major 6 TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£22,995
2016 Buccaneer Cruiser	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£22,995
2022 Bailey Pegasus G Ancona	DEVON	SA	5 Berth	£22,995
2022 Swift Conqueror 480	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£23,495
2018 Coachman VIP 675	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£23,495
2020 Bailey Cartagena Black ED	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£23,495
2022 Swift Challenger 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,495
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Seville	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£23,995
2020 Swift Elegance 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995

2022 Bailey Unicorn Cabrera	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2023 Bailey Pegasus G Rimini	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2020 Bailey Alicante Grande Sint	SOMERSET	SA	0 Berth	£24,495
2023 Sprite Quattro DB Grande	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£24,995
2022 Swift Challenger 650	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£24,995
2020 Bailey Alicanto Sintra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£24,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn Cabrera	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£25,995
2021 Adria Alpina Mississipi	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£25,995
2023 Sprite Quattro DB	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£25,995
2022 Coachman VIP 540 Xtra	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£25,995
2024 Bailey Unicorn V Cadiz	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£26,995
2024 Elddis Affinity 550	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£26,995
2019 Swift Elegance Grande 635	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£26,995
2021 Coachman Laser Xcel 575	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£26,995
2023 Adria Adora 623 DP Tiber	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£26,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Pamplona	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£27,495
2020 Swift Elegance Grande 850	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£27,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Cartagena	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£27,995
2022 Adria Alpina 623 UC Missis	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£28,995
2023 Coachman Laser 575 Xtra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£29,995
2023 Bailey Alicanto S2 Lisbon	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£29,995
2020 Coachman Laser Xcel 875	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£29,995
2023 Bailey Alicanto Porto	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£30,995
2023 Bailey Alicanto Evora	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2022 Coachman Laser Xcel 845	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£32,995
2024 Bailey Alicanto S2 Porto	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£32,995
2024 Swift Elegance 860 Grande	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£36,995
2021 Coachman Lusso	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2023 Coachman Lusso 2	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£42,995

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Devon Branch: 01626 832792
Higher Brocks Plantation, Teigngrace, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6QZ

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